自殺島 3

森恒二

白泉社
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雑誌44326-92

"無法島"と呼ばれるこの島で、過去に
一体何があったのか――?
主人公・セイが一匹の相棒と共に
本格的な狩猟を行う一方、
ついに島からの脱出を試みる仲間が!?
「この島で、何かがわかりかけているんだ。」
サバイバル極限ドラマ第3巻!!
2010年8月刊行

若い頃、目指す場所が
あまりに遠く高く見え、無力感に苛まれた。
足元の道、目の前にある事
それが遠く高い場所にまで
続いている。
それを理解するまで
多くの時間を要した。

森恒二

月刊少年ヤングアニマル
ANIMAL
毎月第2・第4金曜日発売

JETS COMICS
YOUNG ANIMAL PRESENTS

白殺島

3

森恒二

白泉社

白泉社

"無法島"と呼ばれるこの島で、過去に
一体何があったのか――?
主人公・セイが一匹の相棒(子犬)と共に
本格的な狩猟を行う一方、
ついに島からの脱出を試みる仲間が!?
「この島で、何かがわかりかけているんだ」。
サバイバル極限ドラマ第3巻!!
2010年6月刊行

JETS COMICS

—I'VE HEARD OF THAT...
...THERE ARE A BUNCH OF RUMORS SPREADING ABOUT IT ON THE NET.
THE RISING RATE OF SUICIDAL PEOPLE...
AND HOW THE COUNTRY CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT THEIR EXPENSES.
THAT'S WHY THEY'VE CHOSEN TO DISCARD THEM ALL...
AND BANISH THEM TO AN ISLAND.
I THINK... IT WAS TO A PLACE CALLED
—"SUICIDE ISLAND"

サバイバル極限ドラマ

自殺島 3

JISATSUTOU presented by MORI KOUJI

森 恒二

SUICIDE ISLAND

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SEI

The main character
Attempted suicide by overdose, and was sent to Suicide Island

RYOU

A character currently acting like the leader of the group Ryou is in. He is very positive, an unusual characteristic for a suicidal person

???

A girl stopped from jumping off a roof by Sei on Suicide Island. Details unknown

TOMO

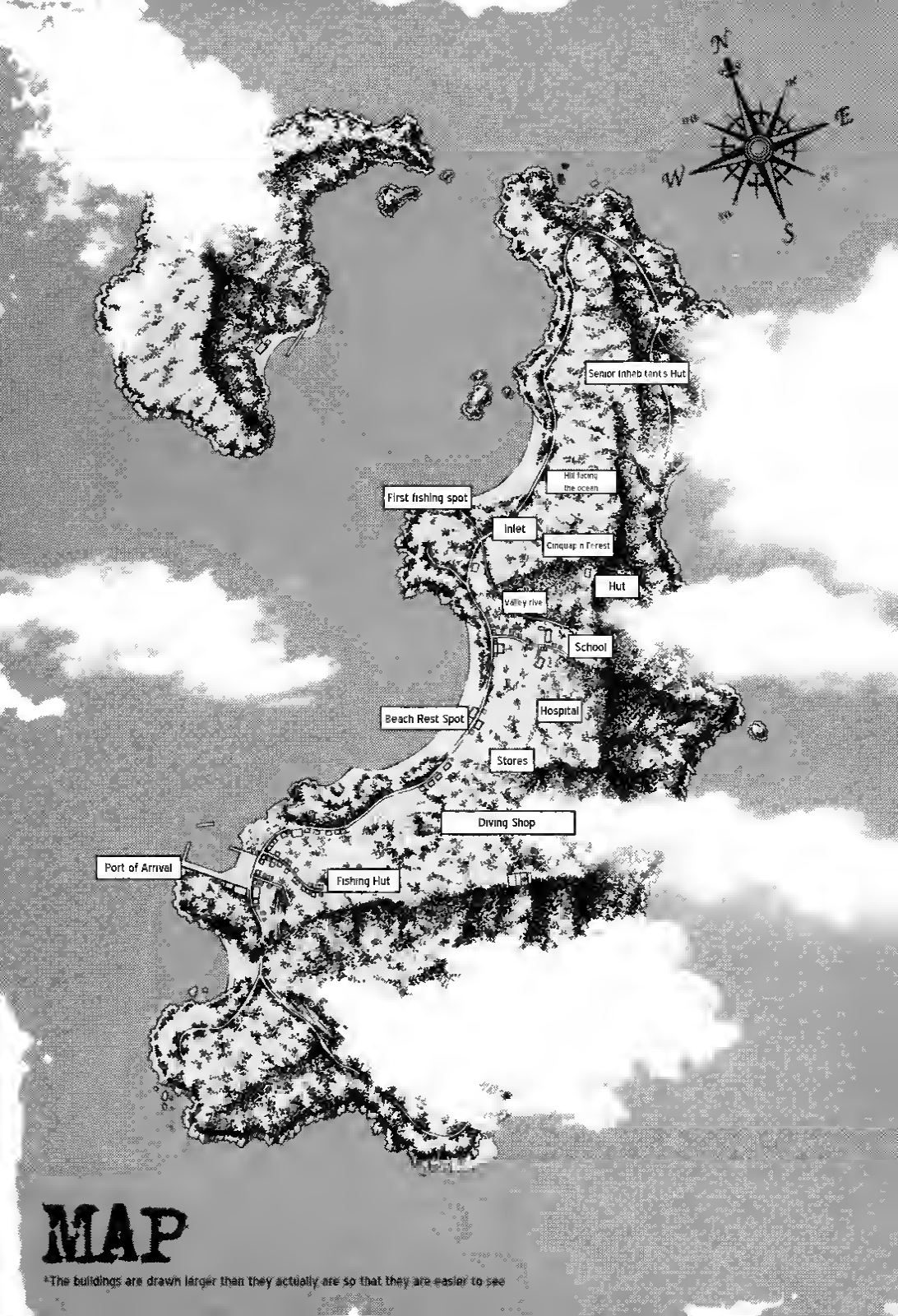
A person who moves around with Sei a lot
He lived in Okinawa

SUGI

A person who knew of Suicide Island before the fact
He is very well-informed

KAI

A person who can make very level, cool decisions. He seems to be drawing a line somewhere within the group



MAP

*The buildings are drawn larger than they actually are so that they are easier to see

自殺島

3

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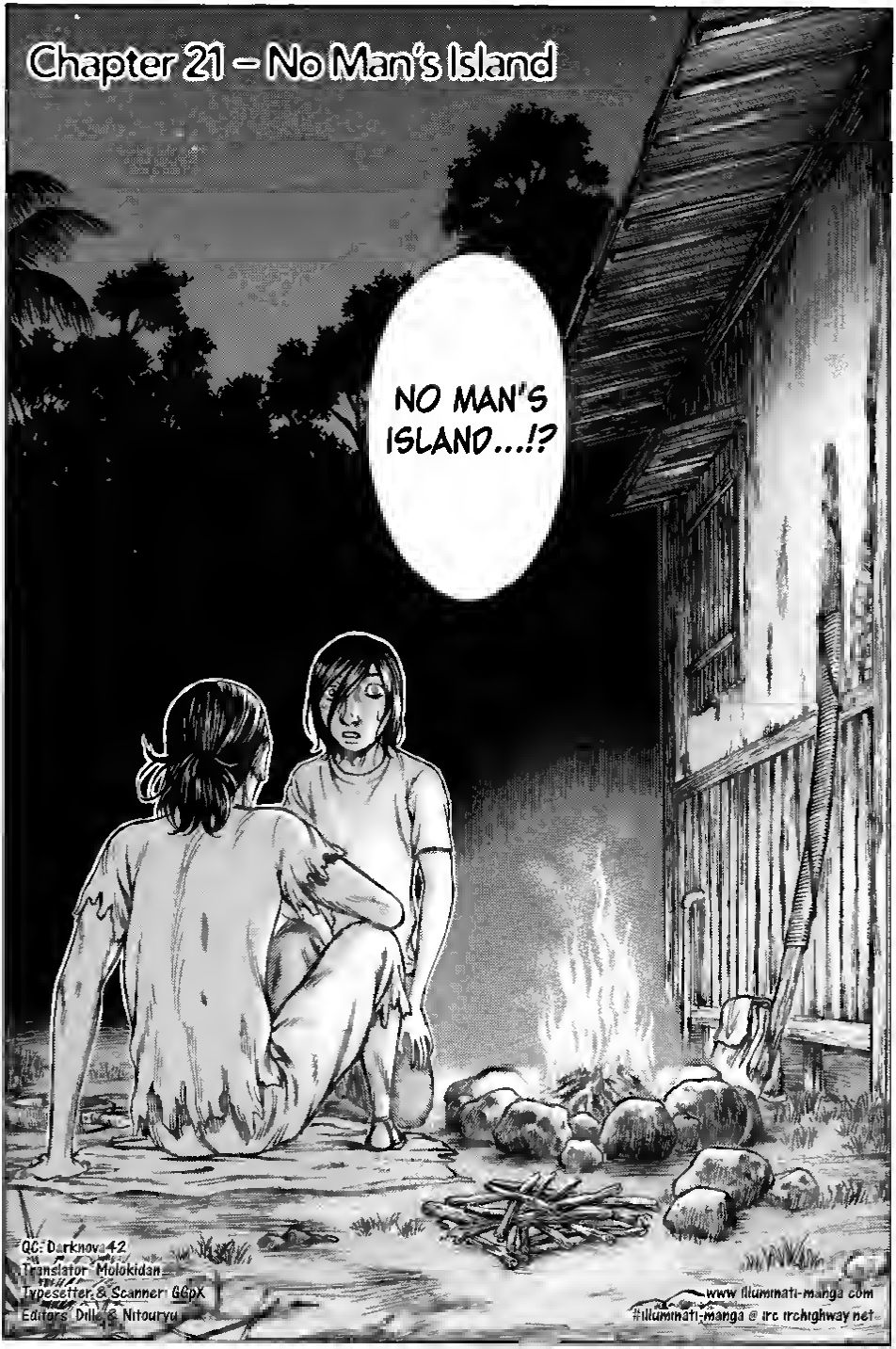
Chapter 21 – No Man's Island
NO MAN'S ISLAND...!?
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Typesetter & Scanner: GGpX
Editors: Dill & Nitouryu
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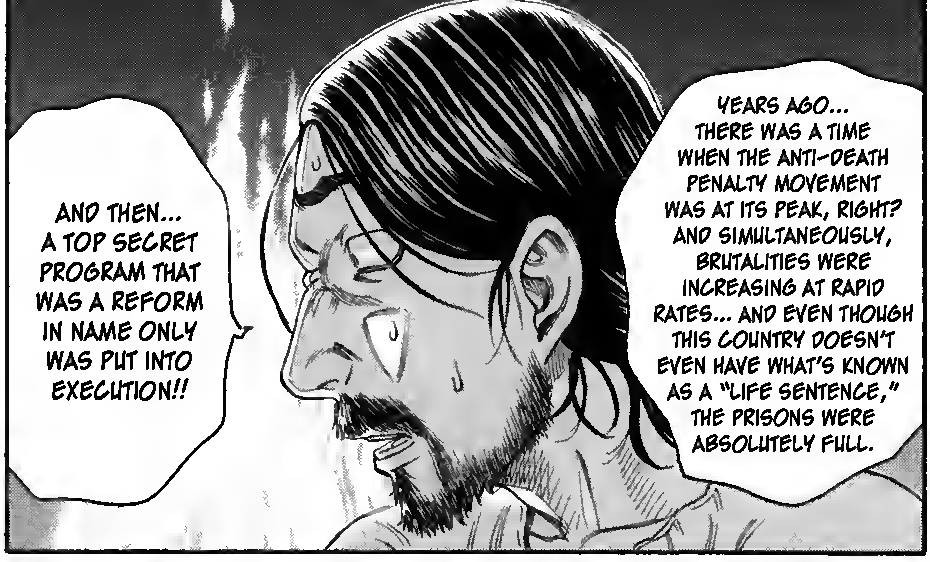
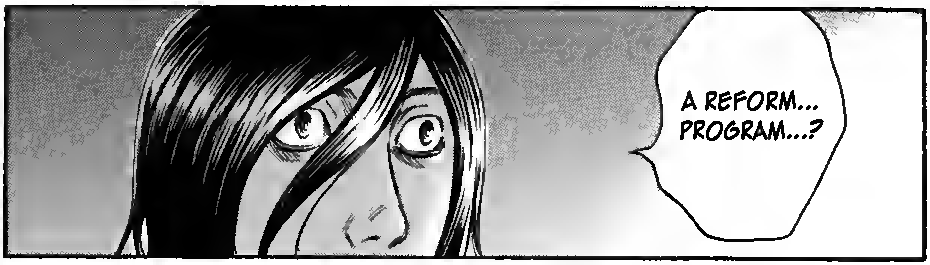
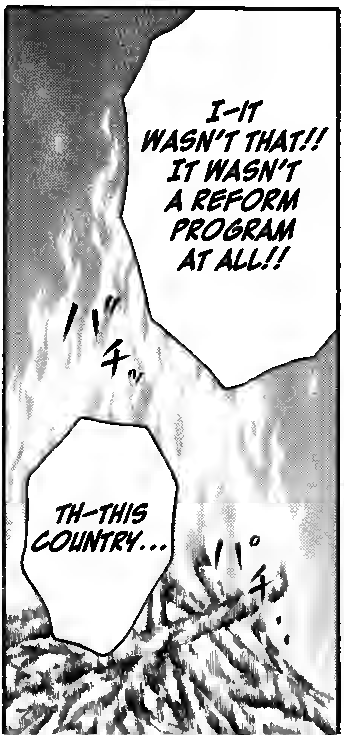
#illuminati-manga @ irc.irchighway.net

I HAVEN'T KILLED A SOUL... WHY?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A NO MAN'S ISLAND...
O-OTHER-WISE...
WHAT ARE YOU... COME ON! Y-YOU MUST HAVE KILLED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IF YOU WERE SENT HERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
WHAT?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A KILLER, BUT...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...? YOU REALLY HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE?
BANISH... MENT?
THIS IS AN ISLAND FOR BANISHMENT.
.....


YEARS AGO... THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE ANTI-DEATH PENALTY MOVEMENT WAS AT ITS PEAK, RIGHT? AND SIMULTANEOUSLY, BRUTALITIES WERE INCREASING AT RAPID RATES... AND EVEN THOUGH THIS COUNTRY DOESN'T EVEN HAVE WHAT'S KNOWN AS A "LIFE SENTENCE," THE PRISONS WERE ABSOLUTELY FULL.
AND THEN... A TOP SECRET PROGRAM THAT WAS A REFORM IN NAME ONLY WAS PUT INTO EXECUTION!!


A REFORM... PROGRAM...?

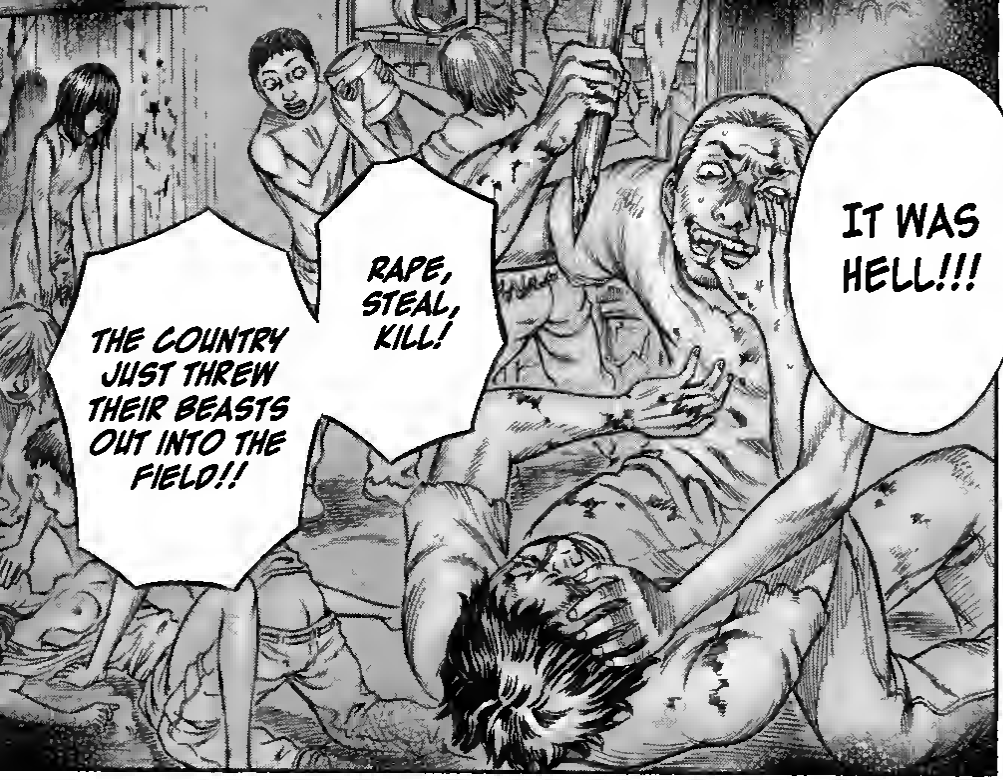
IT TOOK THE DEEP POOL OF VILE CRIMINALS IT HAD... CRIMINALS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PUT TO DEATH...
A-AND BANISHED THEM ONTO THIS ISLAND!!!


I-IT WASN'T THAT!! IT WASN'T A REFORM PROGRAM AT ALL!!
TH-THIS COUNTRY...

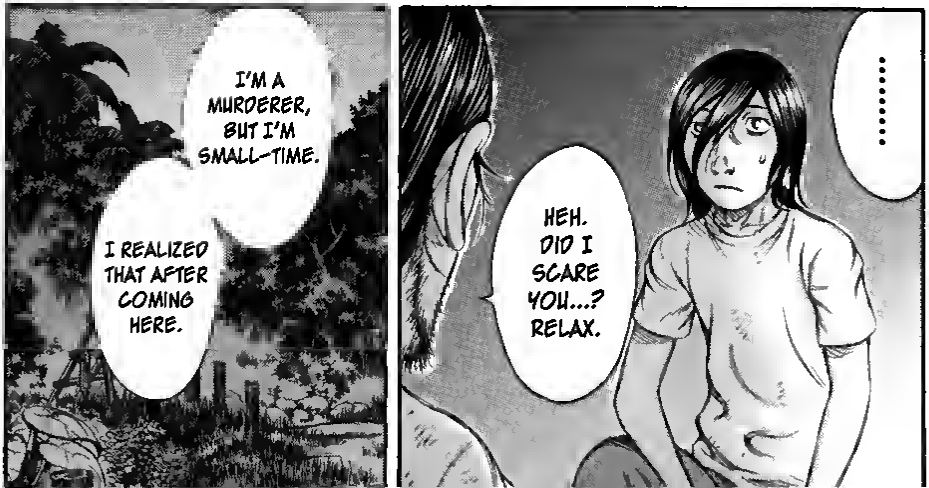
THIS... LAWLESS ISLAND.

BUT... T... THAT'S...
THE SAME AS...

THEY THOUGHT THAT IF THEY PUT PEOPLE IN A PLACE WHERE THEY WOULD BE FORCED TO WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, THAT THEY WOULD!
NO MATTER *WHAT* KIND OF PEOPLE THEY WERE. MAKES ME LAUGH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED?


IT WAS HELL!!!
RAPE, STEAL, KILL!
THE COUNTRY JUST THREW THEIR BEASTS OUT INTO THE FIELD!!

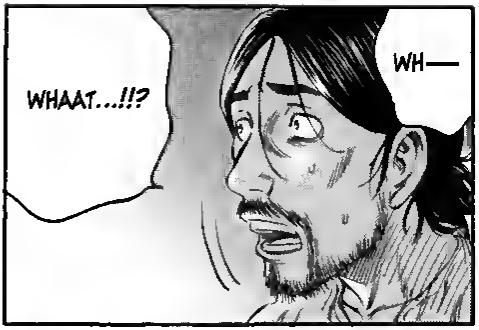
MOST PEOPLE COULDN'T MAKE IT THROUGH THE FIRST WINTER.
AND THE ONES THAT DID JUST KILLED EACH OTHER OFF...
RIGHT AFTER THE FIGHTING STARTED, I RAN INTO THE MOUNTAINS AND SOMEHOW MANAGED TO SURVIVE.


.....
HEH. DID I SCARE YOU...? RELAX.
I'M A MURDERER, BUT I'M SMALL-TIME.
I REALIZED THAT AFTER COMING HERE.

THEY WOULDN'T HAVE SENT YOU HERE FOR NOTHING.
SO... WHAT DID YOU DO?

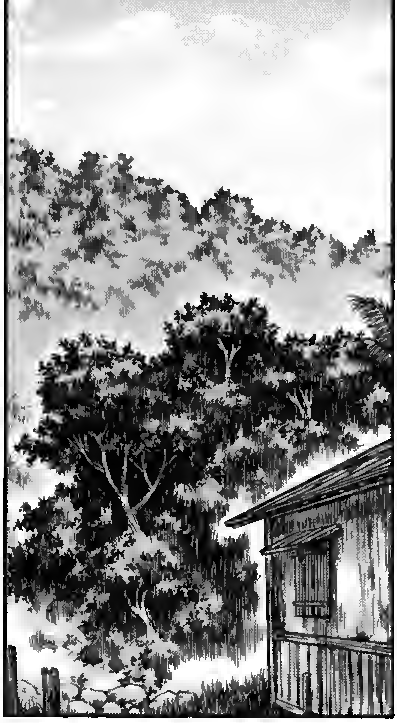
THE ONES WHO CAME WITH ME ARE ALL THE SAME.
...I... COMMITTED SUICIDE... BUT I FAILED, REPEATEDLY...

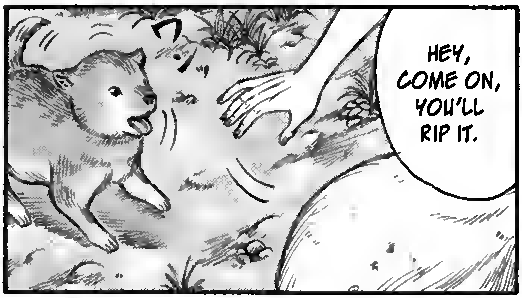
THE CRIME AND SUICIDE RATES HAVE BEEN GOING UP EVER SINCE I WAS OUT IN SOCIETY.
IF I HADN'T TAKEN UP KILLING... I MIGHT HAVE JUST KILLED MYSELF...

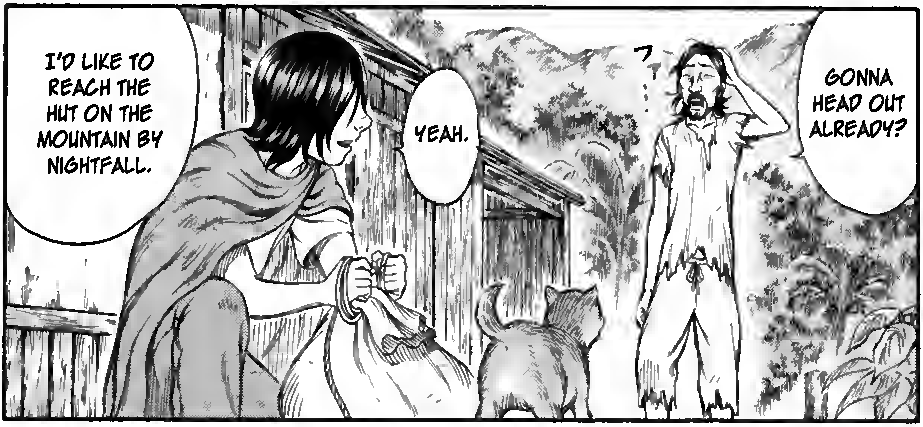

WHAAT...!!?
WH—

I SUPPOSE... I CAN UNDERSTAND.
...NO.

I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE.
WOULD I HAVE KILLED SOMEONE ELSE INSTEAD ...?
I THOUGHT THE SAME... THAT IF I HADN'T CHOSEN SUICIDE—
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT'S CRAZY AND WHAT ISN'T.
IN THE END,
.....
THIS COUNTRY IS GETTING CRAZIER AND CRAZIER... NO,




HEY, COME ON, YOU'LL RIP IT.


I'D LIKE TO REACH THE HUT ON THE MOUNTAIN BY NIGHTFALL.
YEAH.
GONNA HEAD OUT ALREADY?

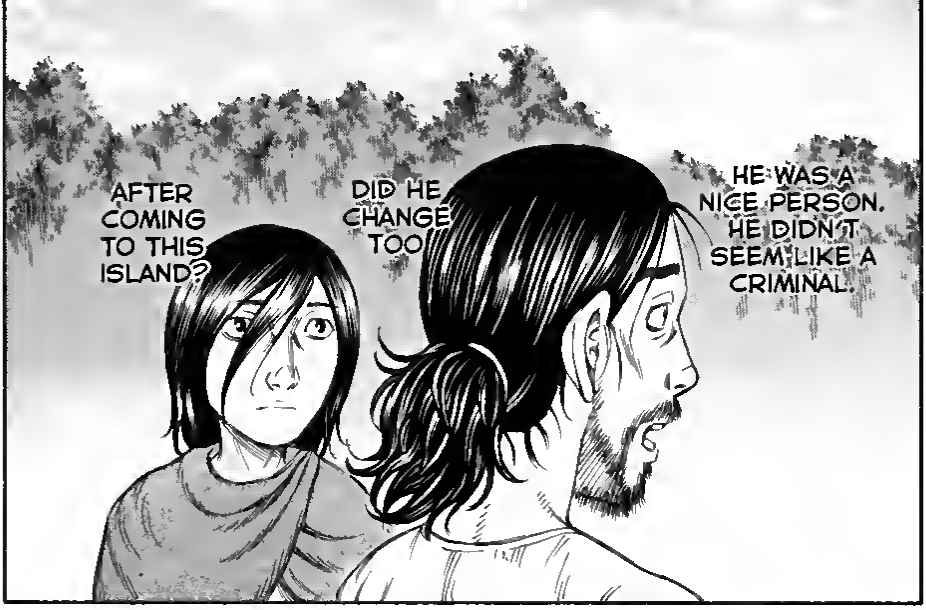
...?
WH... WHEN THEY GET BACKED UP AGAINST A WALL, THEY'LL... DO ANYTHING.
TH... THERE MIGHT ONLY BE FIGHTING WAITING FOR YOU AFTER YOU RETURN, YOU KNOW...? PEOPLE ARE LIKE THAT.

HOW ABOUT IT!? I THINK WE COULD DO PRETTY WELL TOGETHER!!
Y-YEAH! YOU GO GET THE MEAT, AND I'LL HANDLE THE VEGGIES... SEE?
W-WELL? HOW ABOUT... STAYING HERE?
EH...
AHH, NAW, IT'S ALRIGHT.
Just thought I'd try
I'M SORRY... EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ASKING ME LIKE THIS...
BUT I TOLD MY FRIENDS THAT I WOULD DEFINITELY RETURN...
...U-UMM... I'M SORRY...
I THINK HIS LIFE ALONE IN THE MOUNTAINS WAS A VERY TOUGH ONE.
HE WAS SMILING, BUT
W-WELL, IT *IS* EASY TO L... LIVE ALONE...

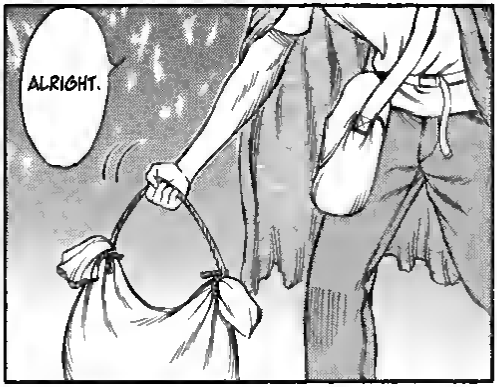
HE SAID HE WANTED ME TO KEEP HIM AND HIS HUT A SECRET.
I INVITED HIM TO COME WITH ME, BUT HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO. AND THEN—

BUT IT WOULD BE QUICKER THAN GETTING LOST.
THE MOUNTAIN PATH WAS AROUND THE TOP, SO IT WOULD INVOLVE CLIMBING,
HE TOLD ME ABOUT A MOUNTAIN PATH TO TAKE ON MY WAY BACK.

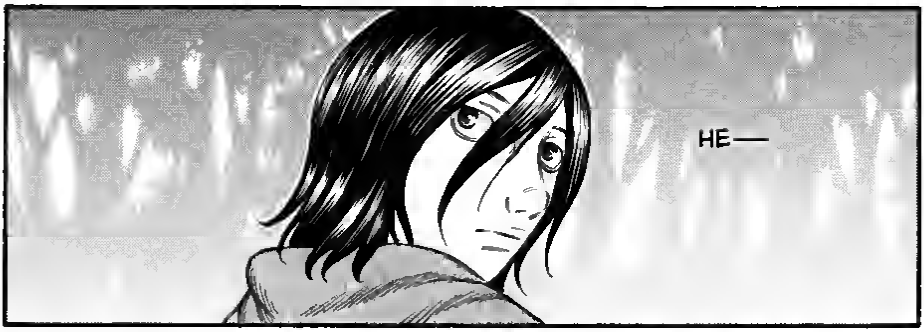
HE SAID HE MADE HIS FIELDS FROM GATHERING UP VEGETABLES AND PLANTING THEM IN WILD GRASS.
THAT WE COULD APPARENTLY FIND PRODUCE (LIKE POTATOES AND STUFF) IN THE GRASS.
HE ALSO SUGGESTED I GO LOOKING FOR ABANDONED FARM FIELDS WHEN I RETURNED.

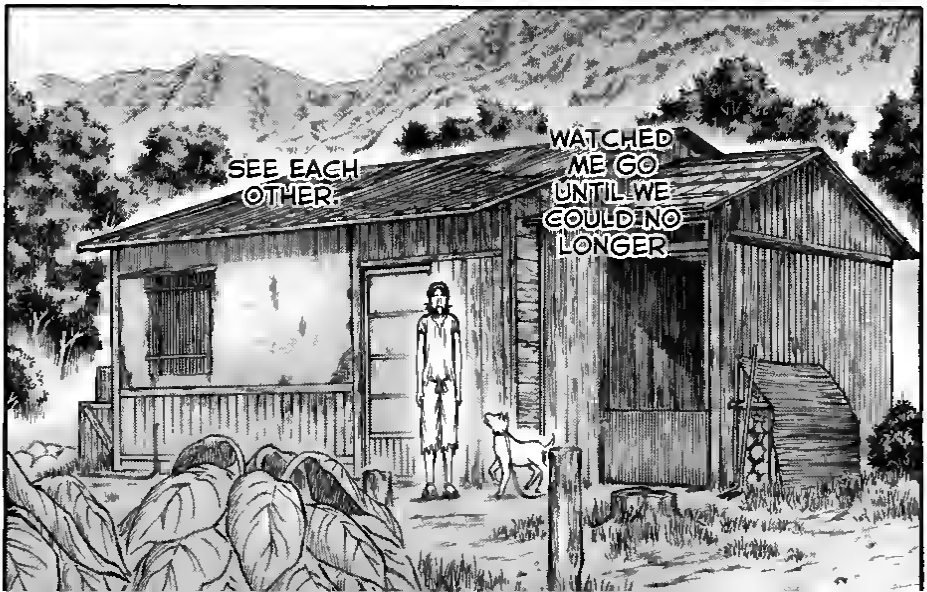

AFTER COMING TO THIS ISLAND?
DID HE CHANGE TOO
HE WAS A NICE PERSON. HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A CRIMINAL.

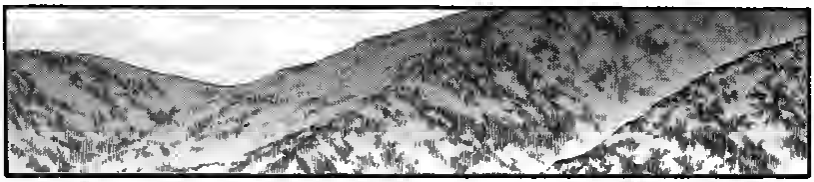
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
Y... YEAH, TAKE CARE...

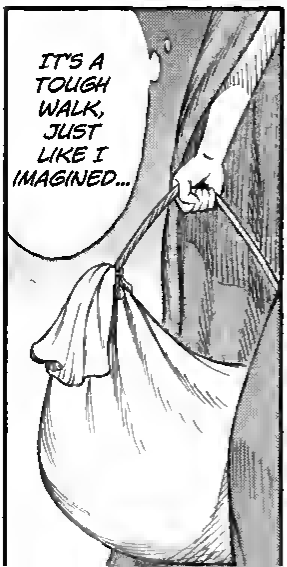

ALRIGHT.

ヒョコ
LET'S GO!


HE—

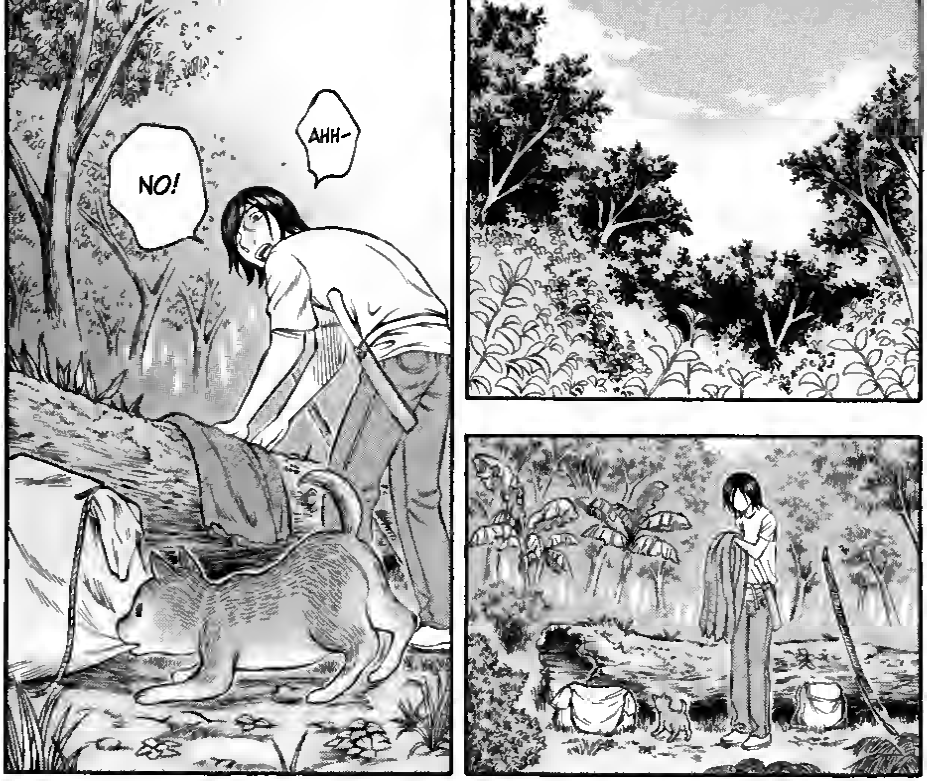

SEE EACH OTHER.
WATCHED ME GO UNTIL WE COULD NO LONGER

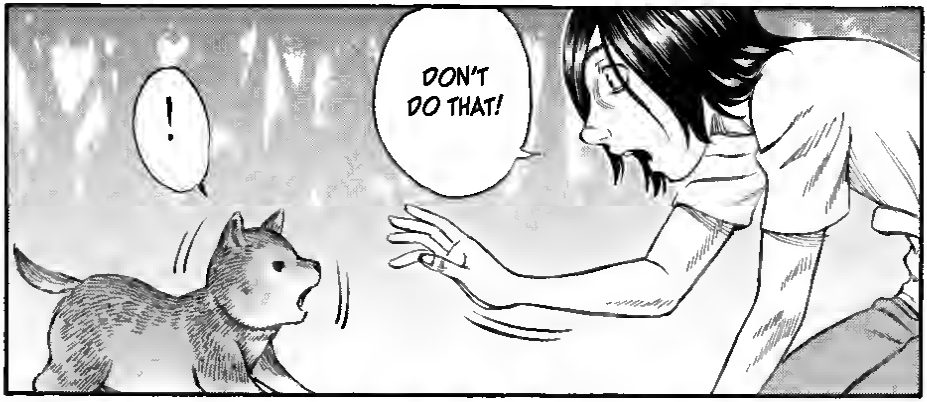



IT'S A TOUGH WALK, JUST LIKE I IMAGINED...

hah
hah
hah

HEY, C'MON!
ウン
アン
hah
hah
hoo
DON'T GET BETWEEN MY LEGS! I'LL STEP ON YOU.
I'M GLAD YOU CAN WALK ON YOUR OWN, BUT AT THIS RATE...
hah
hah
hah
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE I'M GOING TO MAKE IT TO THE HUT TODAY.
I NEED TO HURRY UP AND FIND SOMEWHERE TO SET UP CAMP.

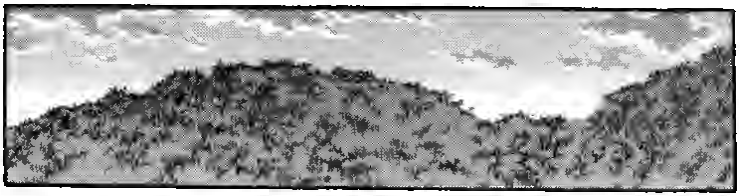

NO!
AHH-


!
DON'T DO THAT!

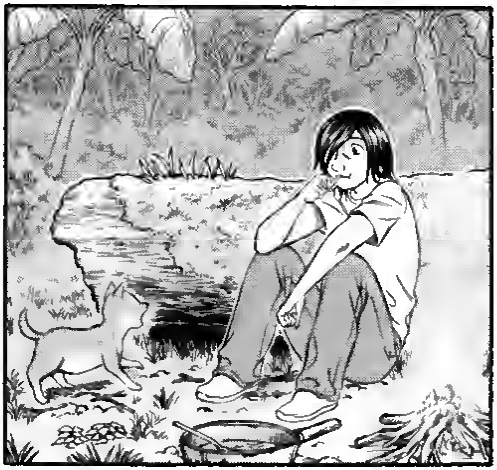
I NEED TO BE CAREFUL.
YOU'RE SHARP... CAN YOU TELL IT'S MEAT?
Ruff!

I HAVE EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU, SO... I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
I DIDN'T TAKE A PUPPY WHEN I MYSELF WAS JUST BARELY SURVIVING MERELY OUT OF SYMPATHY.
hah
hah
hah
THE THING I WAS REALLY FEELING REMORSE ABOUT FROM MY HUNTING WAS NOT BEING ABLE TO DIRECTLY CHASE THE DEER AFTER FINDING THEIR TRACKS.
I IMAGINED THERE WOULD BE MORE TIMES WHEN AFTER SHOOTING A DEER, IT WOULD ESCAPE IN A WOUNDED STATE.
AND IF IT WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE AFTER RUNNING FOR A BIT, THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT I WOULD COMPLETELY LOSE IT.
THIS DOG MIGHT BECOME A GOOD PARTNER WHO COULD DIRECTLY CHASE AFTER MY PREY.
THOUGHT SEI AND THAT WAS CERTAINLY NOT A MISJUDGMENT.

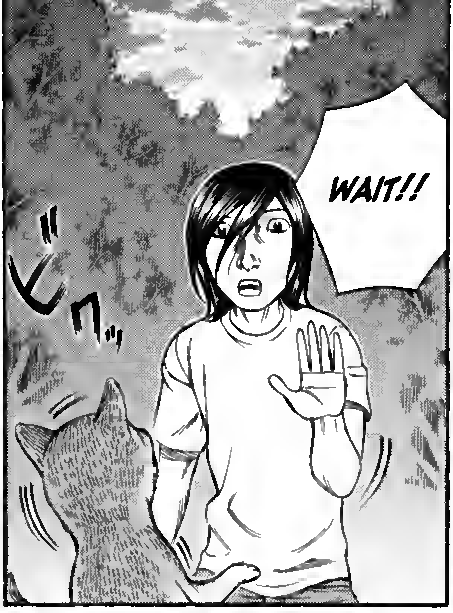
SINCE DOGS USUALLY HUNT IN GROUPS, THEY HAVE A STRONG ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALLIES WHILE WORKING.
DOGS HAVE BEEN CALLED EXCELLENT HUNTING PARTNERS SINCE THE JOUMON PERIOD.

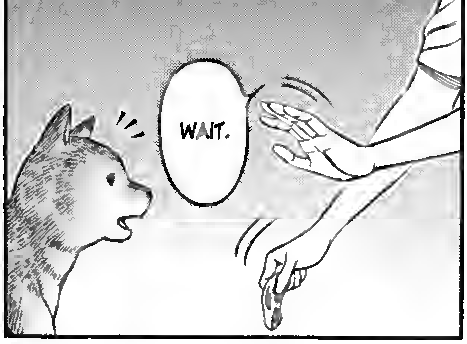


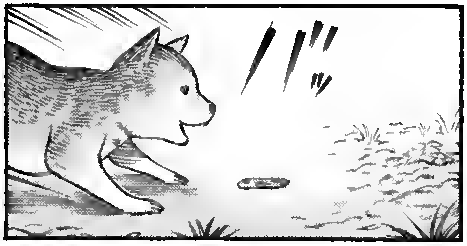
WE'LL START YOUR TRAINING AT ONCE, THEN!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. YOU WANT TO EAT MEAT TOO, DON'T YOU?

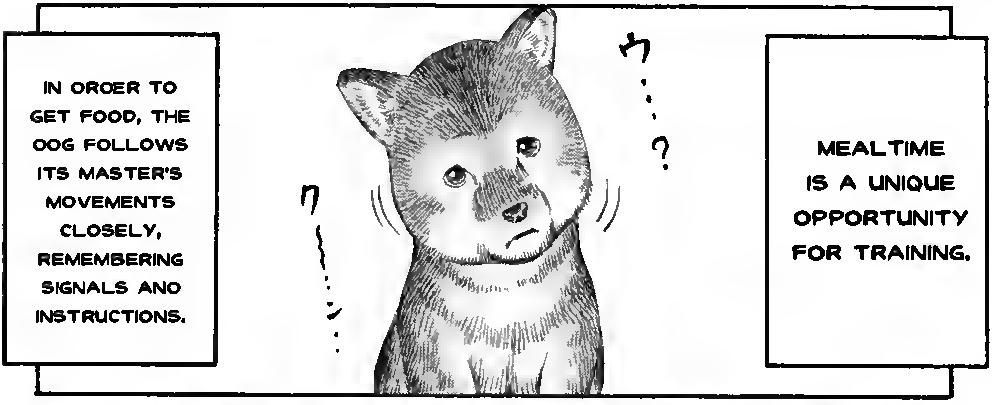


アン！
ウァン！

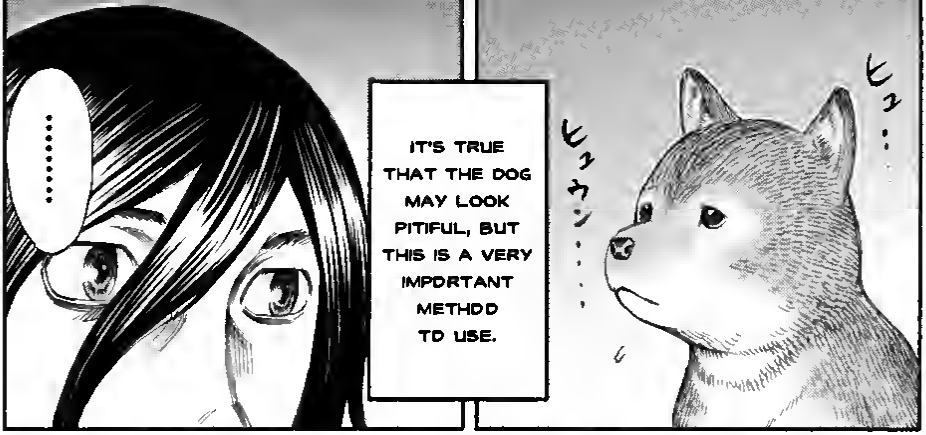

WAIT!!

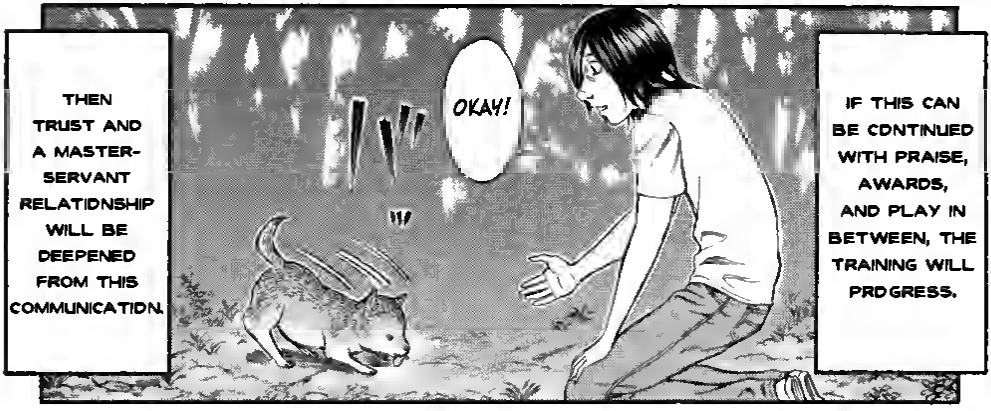

WAIT.



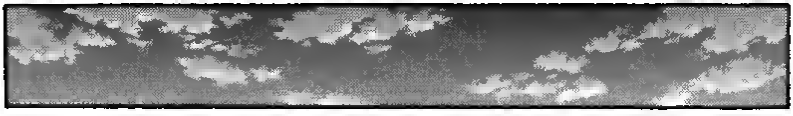

IN ORDER TO GET FOOD, THE DOG FOLLOWS ITS MASTER'S MOVEMENTS CLOSELY, REMEMBERING SIGNALS AND INSTRUCTIONS.
MEALTIME IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAINING.

WAIT!


……
IT'S TRUE THAT THE DOG MAY LOOK PITIFUL, BUT THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT METHOD TO USE.
ヒュウン……
ヒュ……


THEN TRUST AND A MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP WILL BE DEEPENED FROM THIS COMMUNICATION.
OKAY!
IF THIS CAN BE CONTINUED WITH PRAISE, AWARDS, AND PLAY IN BETWEEN, THE TRAINING WILL PROGRESS.

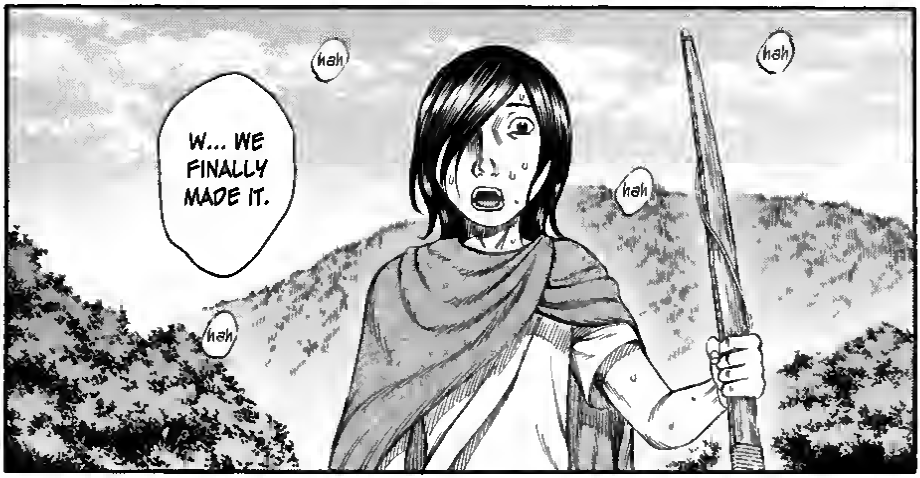
THAT'S IT! GOOD DOG!
OKAY!
WAIT!
WAAAAIT!
Ruff!



[Chapter 21 - No Man's Island / End]

Chapter 22 – A Name

hah
hah
hah

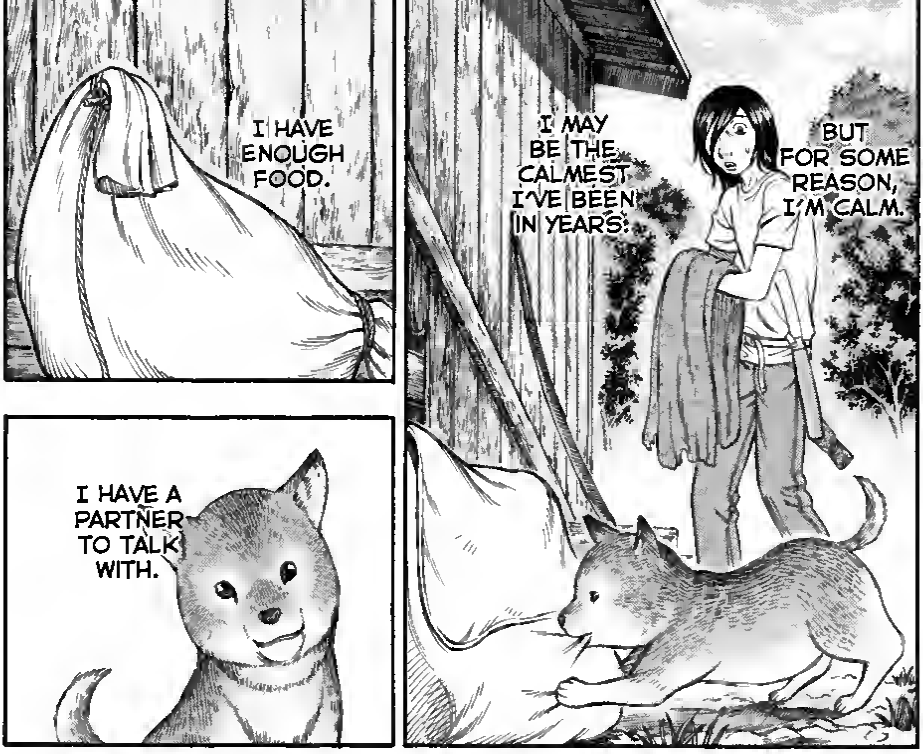

hah
hah
W... WE FINALLY MADE IT.
hah
hah

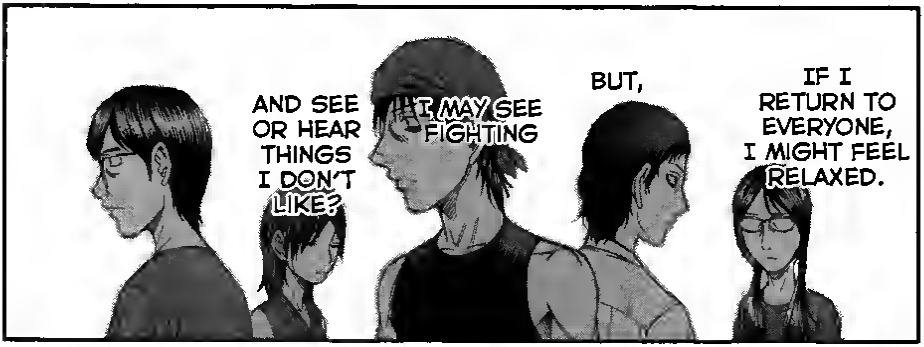
NOW WE CAN REST.

LET'S STAY HERE TODAY, AND THEN WE CAN FINALLY GO HOME TOMORROW.
Ruff!
NO FOOD YET!
アン！
ウァン！
YOU SLEPT IN MY BAG FOR HALF THE DAY...
Hah
Hah
Hah
WELL, OF COURSE YOU HAVE A LOT OF ENERGY...

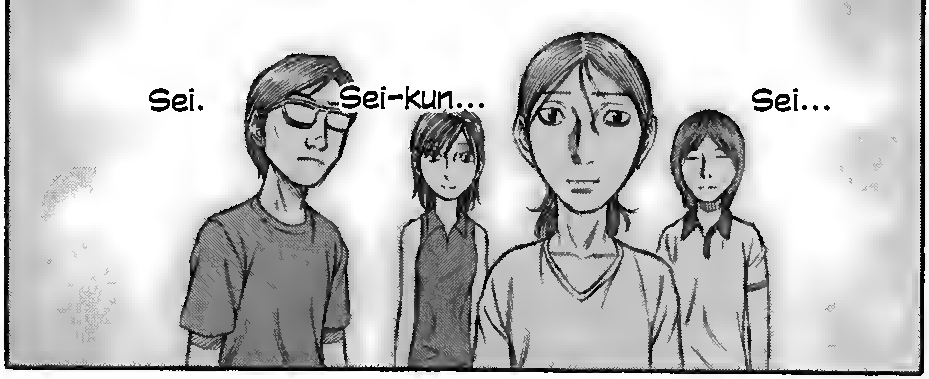
I DIDN'T HURRY, EITHER.
IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE I LEFT THAT GUY'S HOUSE. AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF MY ADDED WEIGHT, THIS JOURNEY HAS TAKEN MUCH MORE TIME THAN I EXPECTED.

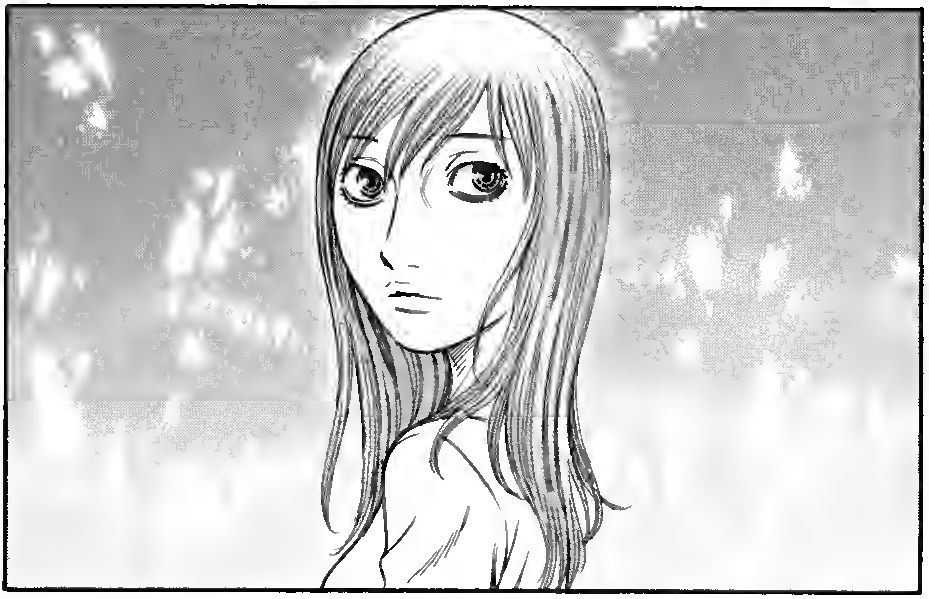
THEY PROBABLY DON'T THINK I'M ALIVE ANYMORE.
I WONDER WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO EVERYONE.
IT'S BEEN OVER A WEEK SINCE I LEFT THE SETTLEMENT NOW.


I HAVE ENOUGH FOOD.
I MAY BE THE CALMEST I'VE BEEN IN YEARS.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, I'M CALM.
I HAVE A PARTNER TO TALK WITH.


AND SEE OR HEAR THINGS I DON'T LIKE?
I MAY SEE FIGHTING
BUT,
IF I RETURN TO EVERYONE, I MIGHT FEEL RELAXED.

Come back alive.

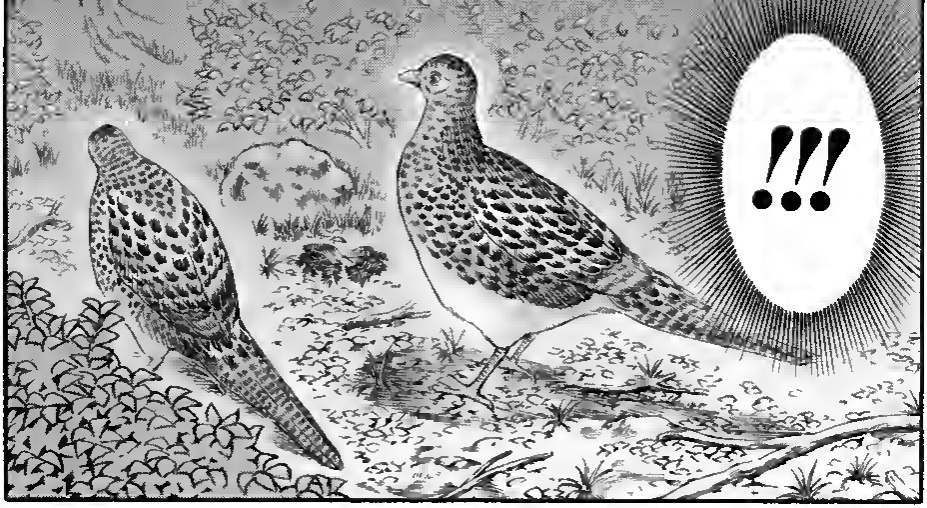

Sei.
Sei-kun...
Sei...



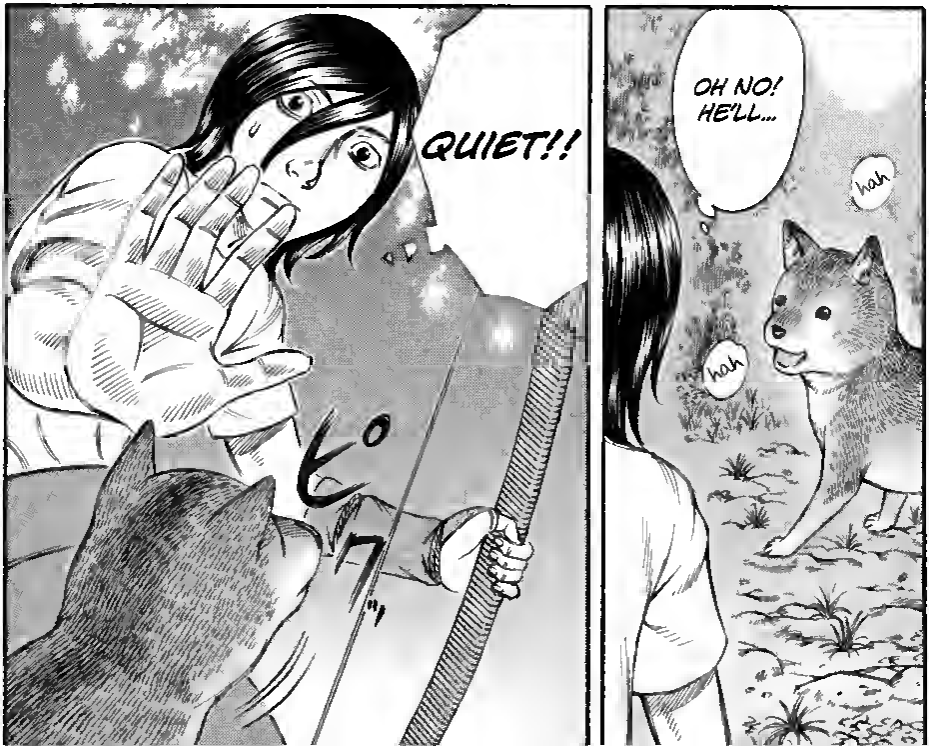
CALIBYUM NUTS!
HEY, LET'S GO GATHER SOME CALIBYUM NUTS!
Ruff!
カロ…

LET'S GO!
I'M GOING HOME!
WHAT AM I THINKING... I'M GOING HOME!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE HEAD BACK?
IT'D BE BEST IF THE DEER APPEARED TO COME EAT THESE...
OH YEAH, THERE'S A LOT MORE HERE THAN BEFORE.

クン
クン
Juu...
?
WHAT'S WRONG?
O-DID YOU FIND SOME-THING?
ウウ...
NO WAY...!
THEY'RE HERE!?


!!!

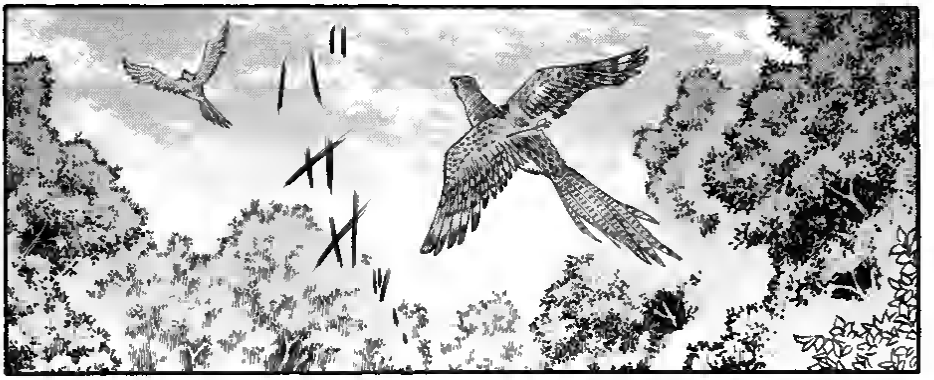
!
BIG!! ARE THOSE... PHEASANTS ...?

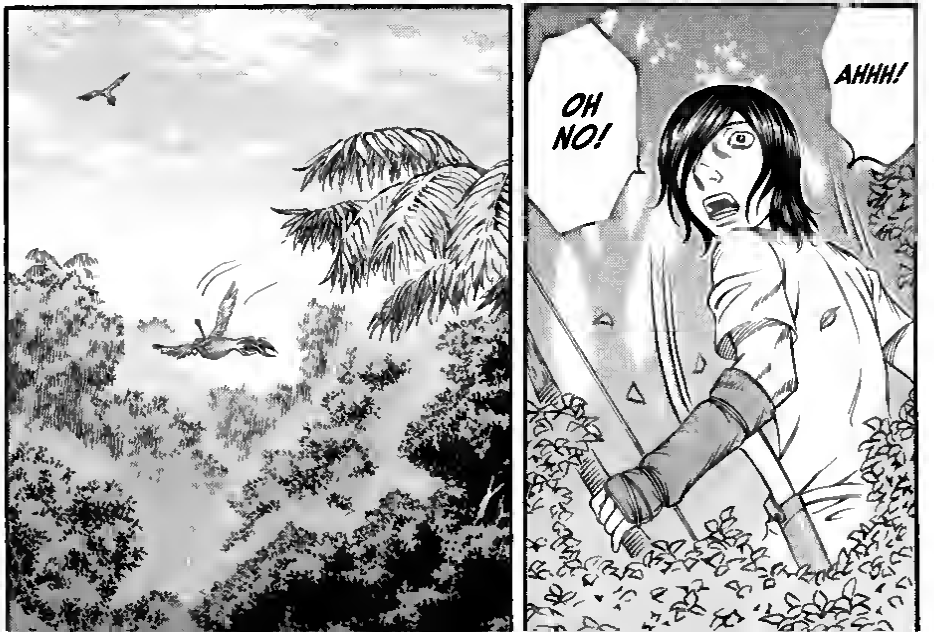

QUIET!!
OH NO! HE'LL...
hah
hah

WHETHER OR NOT HE FELT THE UNUSUAL ATMOSPHERE, THE OOG TENSEO UP ANO LOWEREO HIS BOOY.
YES! GOOD.
SINCE OOGS ORIGINALLY MOVEO IN PACKS, THEY VALUE COMMUNICATION WITH THEIR ALLIES, ANO PUPPIES ARE THE SAME.
THERE IS NO ANIMAL THAT CAN UNOER-STAND HUMAN INTENTIONS MORE THAN THE OOG. IT IS CONNECTED TO THE INSTINCTS THAT THEY ARE BORN WITH.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO THIS!
IT'S A BIG TARGET...

I CAN SHOOT IT!!

BIII...




OH NO!
AHHH!

H-HEY!
WAI...
!!!

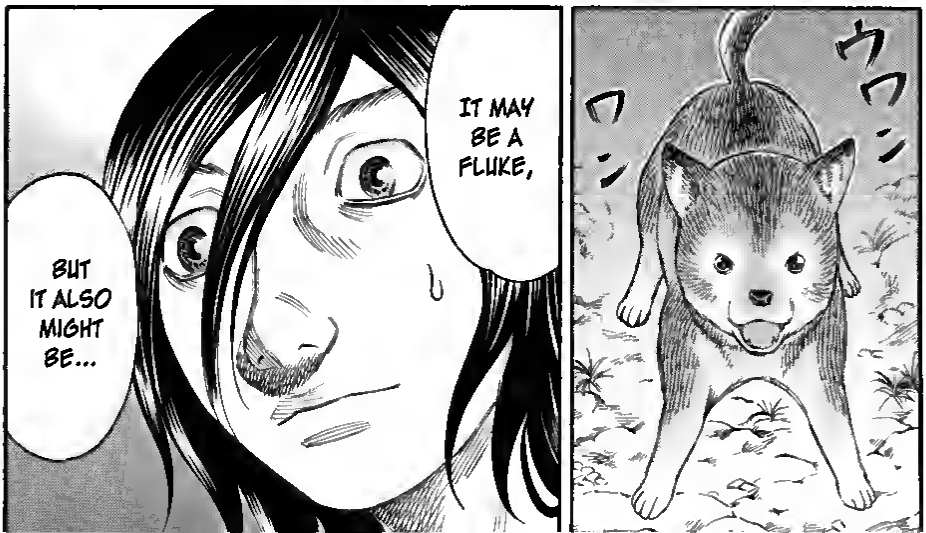
!
...I...

THIS IS BAD!
I SHOULD HAVE TIED HIM UP AFTER ALL.

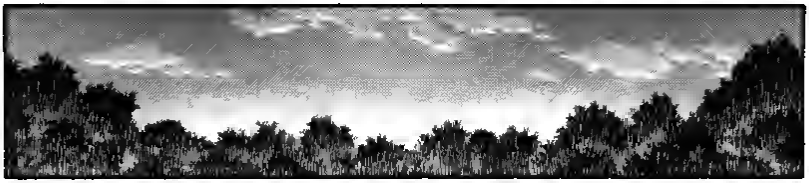
ワンワン
MAYBE HE GOT LOST AND WENT BACK TO THE CABIN...
！
HEEEY!
hah
hah
hah
NO GOOD ...?
ワン ワン ウゥ
OVER THERE!?
ガッ
DON'T JUST JUMP OUT SO SUDD...
！
ワン ウァン
！
ガッ ガッ
HEEEY!

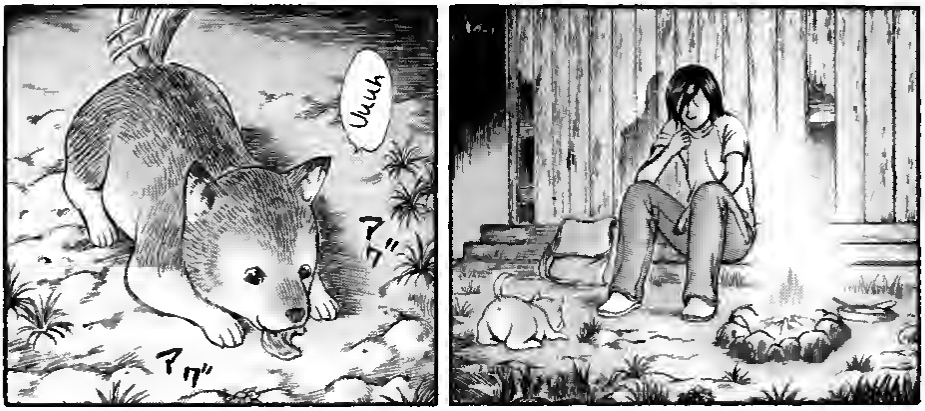
YOU...
ウァン!!
ワン
バサッ

YES! THAT'S THE PREY!!
AMAZING! WERE YOU TELLING ME WHERE IT WAS!?
ワン!


IT MAY BE A FLUKE,
BUT IT ALSO MIGHT BE...
ウワン
ワン

THE RETRIEVAL OF WOUNDED PREY IS AN IMPORTANT ABILITY FOR HUNTING DOGS TO HAVE, AND SEI FELT A SMALL RESPONSE IN HIS PARTNER.
GOOD BOY!!
HE MAY HAVE JUST GOTTEN EXCITED AND CHASED AFTER THE BIRD... BUT THE DOG PERFORMED AS HE HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO.




Uuuu

YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING...
SO ENERGETIC...

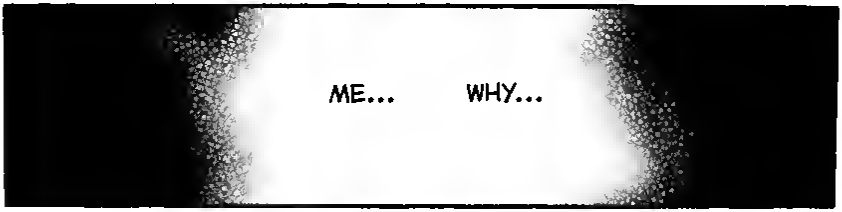
I NEED TO GIVE YOU A NAME.
BUT I CAN'T JUST KEEP CALLING YOU "YOU" FOREVER, CAN I?
Whine...

I'M SEI.
AND YOU'RE...

YOU'RE...
Sei...
Hey... hey!!
Sei! What's wrong!?

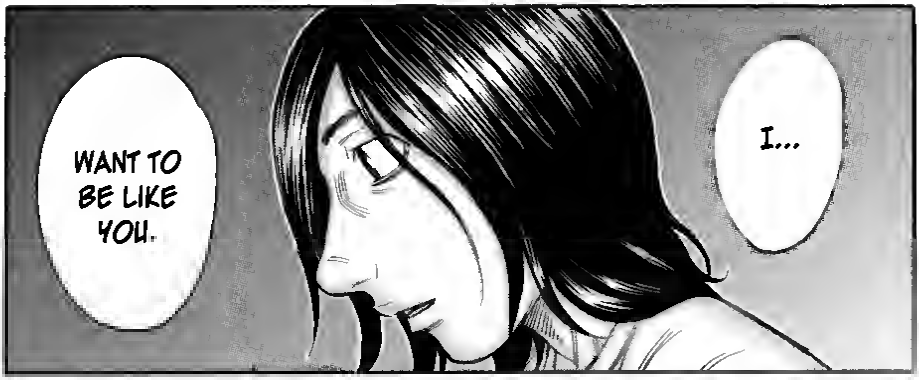
WHY...
FATHER, MOTHER,

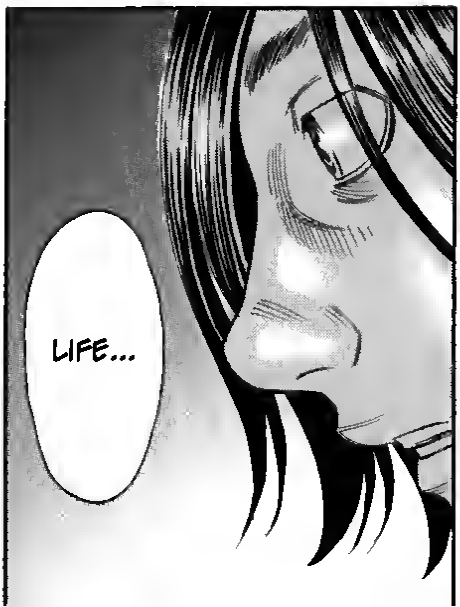
WHY ME...
"SEI," WITH THE KANJI FOR LIFE.
WHY DID YOU NAME ME

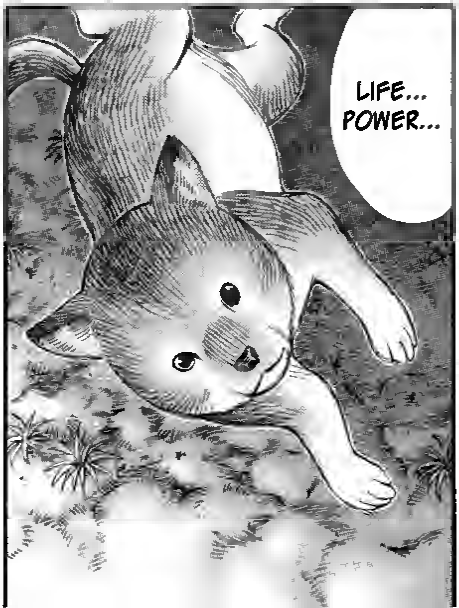

ME... WHY...

heh
heh
heh

YOU'RE ENERGETIC.
ENERGETIC AND STRONG...
BRIMMING WITH LIFE POWER.


I...
WANT TO BE LIKE YOU.


LIFE...

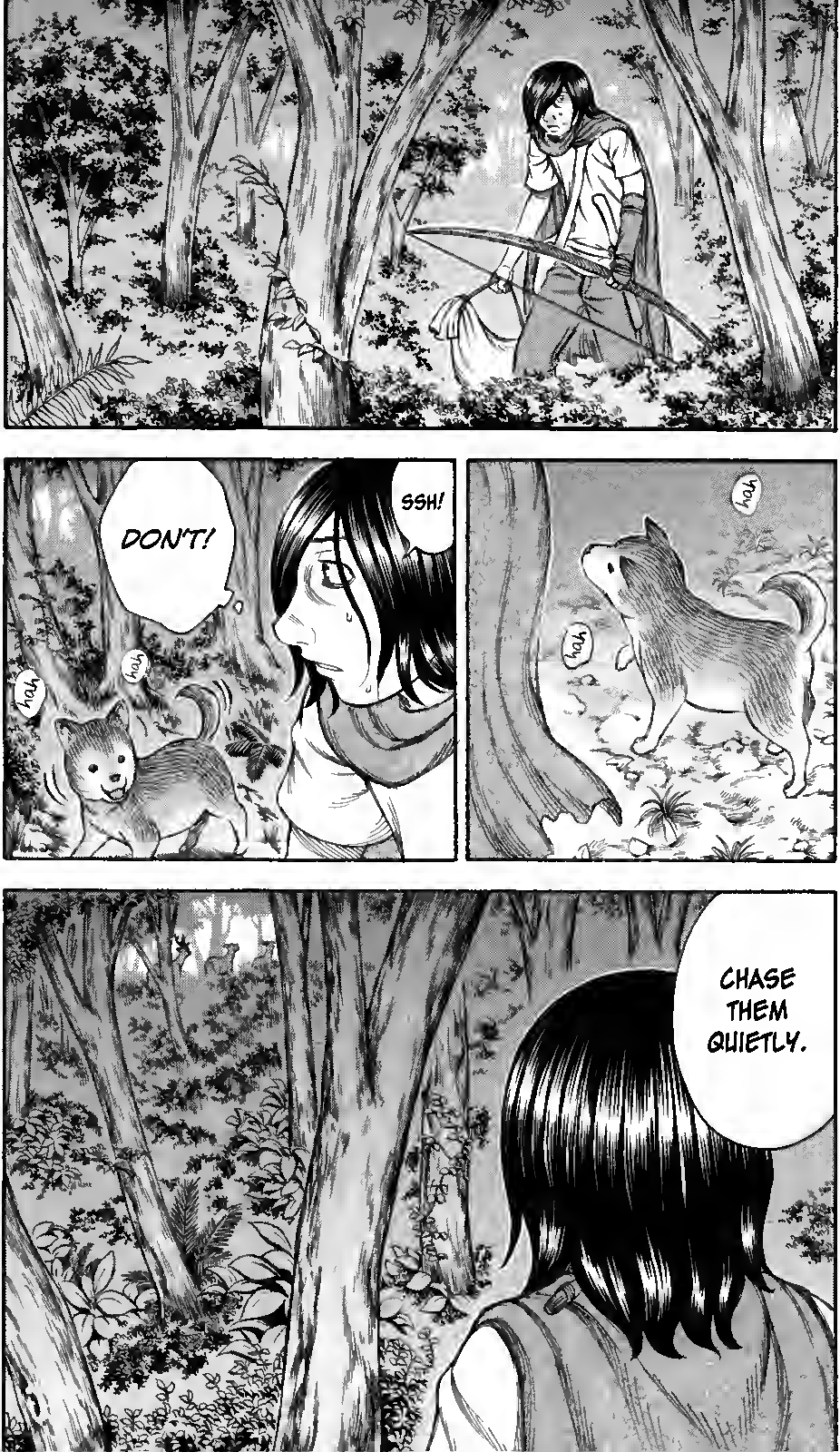

LIFE... POWER...

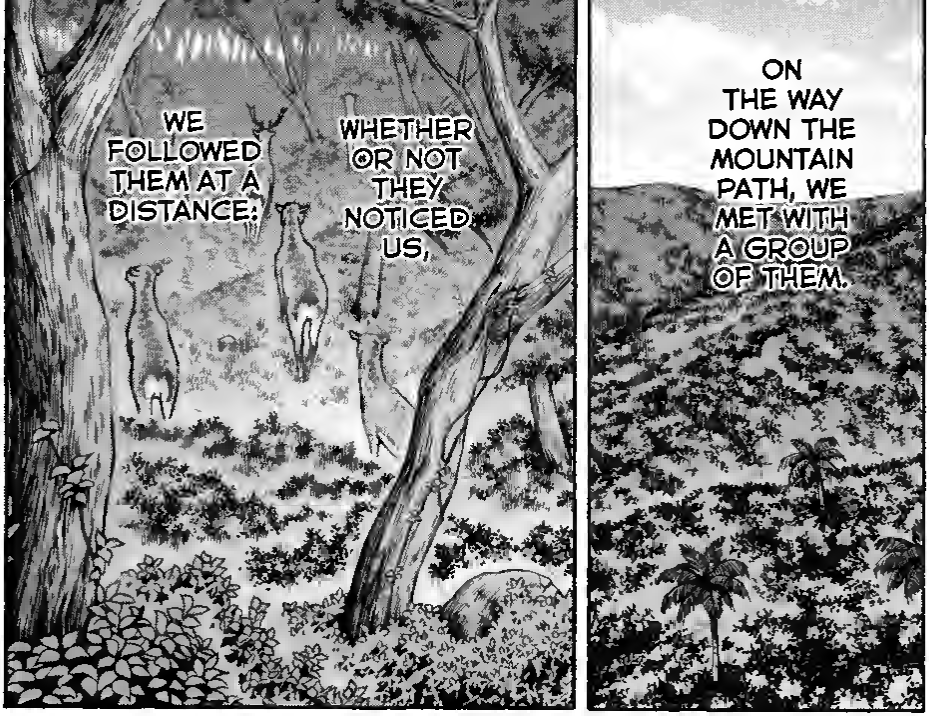
YOU'RE IKIRU.
whine?
THAT'S YOUR NAME.
YES... THAT'S IT!
LIVE...
LIVE.
ruff!
HAHAHA! THAT'S IT!
IKIRU!
ruff
LIVE! IKIRU! THAT'S YOUR NAME.

YOU HAVE THE SAME NAME AS ME.
SEI AND IKIRU!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I GAVE SOMETHING A NAME.
I HAVE A NAME TOO. IT WAS A NAME I WAS CALLED EVERYDAY, WHICH I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO LIKE.
BUT I REALIZED THAT IT WAS PROBABLY GIVEN TO ME ALONG WITH SOME KIND OF HOPE.
WE'LL FINALLY BE HOME TOMORROW.
ruff ruff!
[Chapter 22 – A Name / End]

Chapter 23 – Inside Me

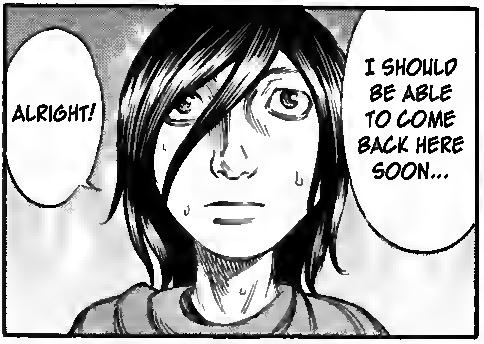

SSH!
DON'T!
YAH
YAH
YAH
YAH
CHASE THEM QUIETLY.

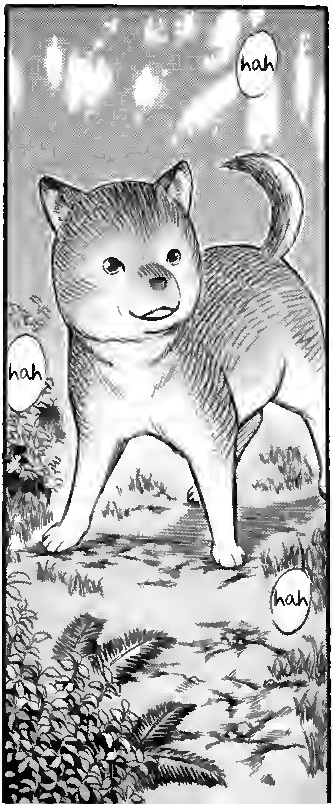

WE FOLLOWED THEM AT A DISTANCE.
WHETHER OR NOT THEY NOTICED US,
ON THE WAY DOWN THE MOUNTAIN PATH, WE MET WITH A GROUP OF THEM.

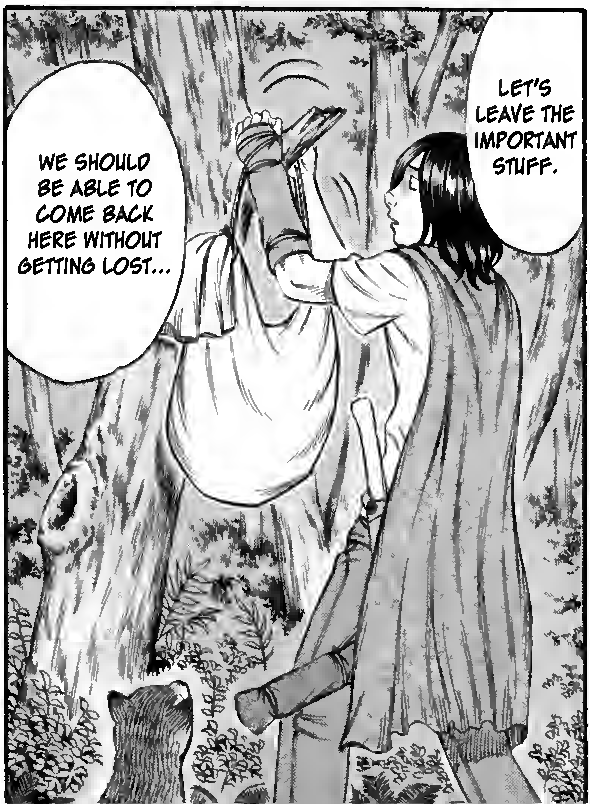
MAYBE WITHOUT ANY MAJOR ENEMIES ON THIS ISLAND, THEIR ALERTNESS AS GRADUALLY DULLED...
I SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TRACK WILD DEER SO EASILY... BUT

SEI'S GUESS WAS ON THE MARK. THE LEVEL OF ALERTNESS FOR DEER WITHOUT ANY MAJOR ENEMY IS BECOMING A PROBLEM EVEN ON THE MAINLAND HERE IN JAPAN.
IF I CAN FIND THEM THIS FREQUENTLY...
WHICH MEANS THERE MUST BE A GREAT NUMBER OF THEM ON THIS ISLAND?

BUT WITH THIS LUGGAGE,
IT'LL BE HARD TO CHASE THEM INTO THE VALLEY...


ALRIGHT!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME BACK HERE SOON...


hah
hah
hah

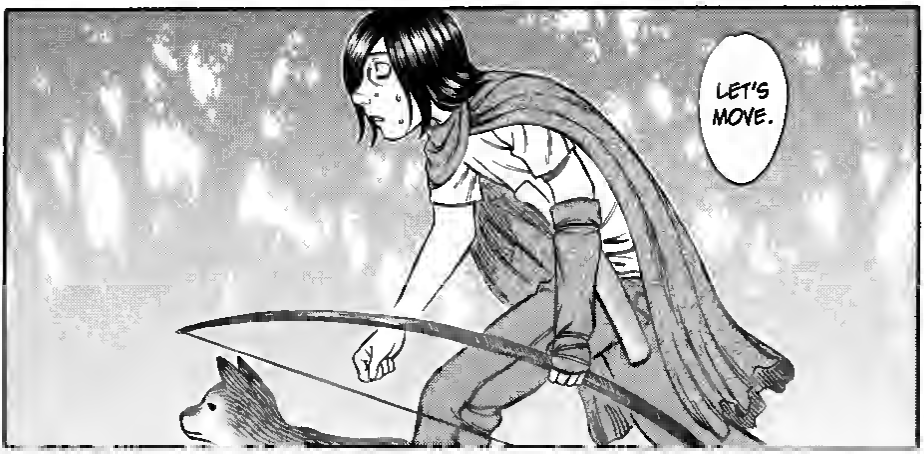

LET'S LEAVE THE IMPORTANT STUFF.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME BACK HERE WITHOUT GETTING LOST...

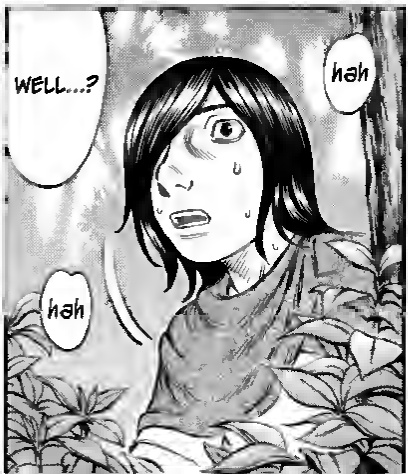
YOU HAVE TO BE QUIET AND FOLLOW ME! OKAY!?
BUT YOU'LL WHINE... I BET...
I WANT TO TIE YOU UP...
QUIETLY.
LET'S HURRY.

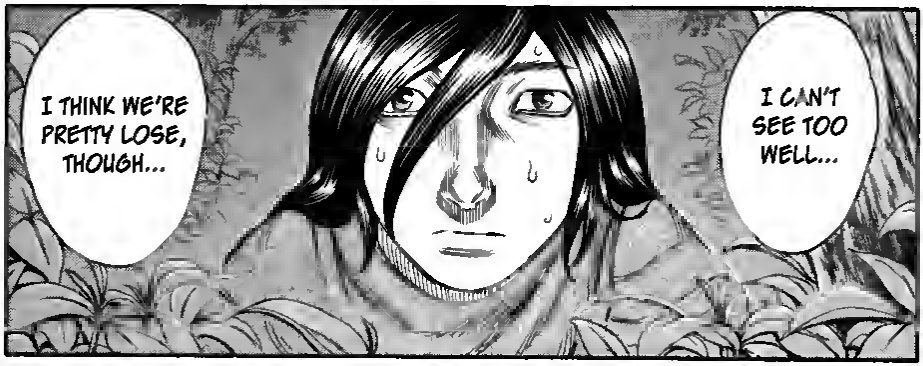
IF THEY INTEND TO BE IN THE BUSHES UNTIL SUNDOWN,
THEN WE'LL GO AROUND TO THE STREAM.

hah
hah

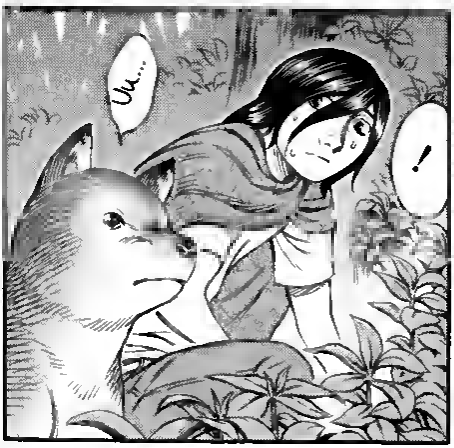
GOOD.
THEY'VE STOPPED MOVING.

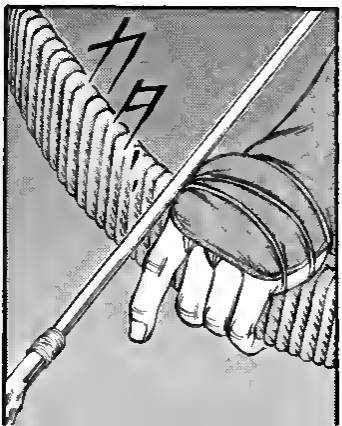

LET'S MOVE.


WELL...?
hah
hah

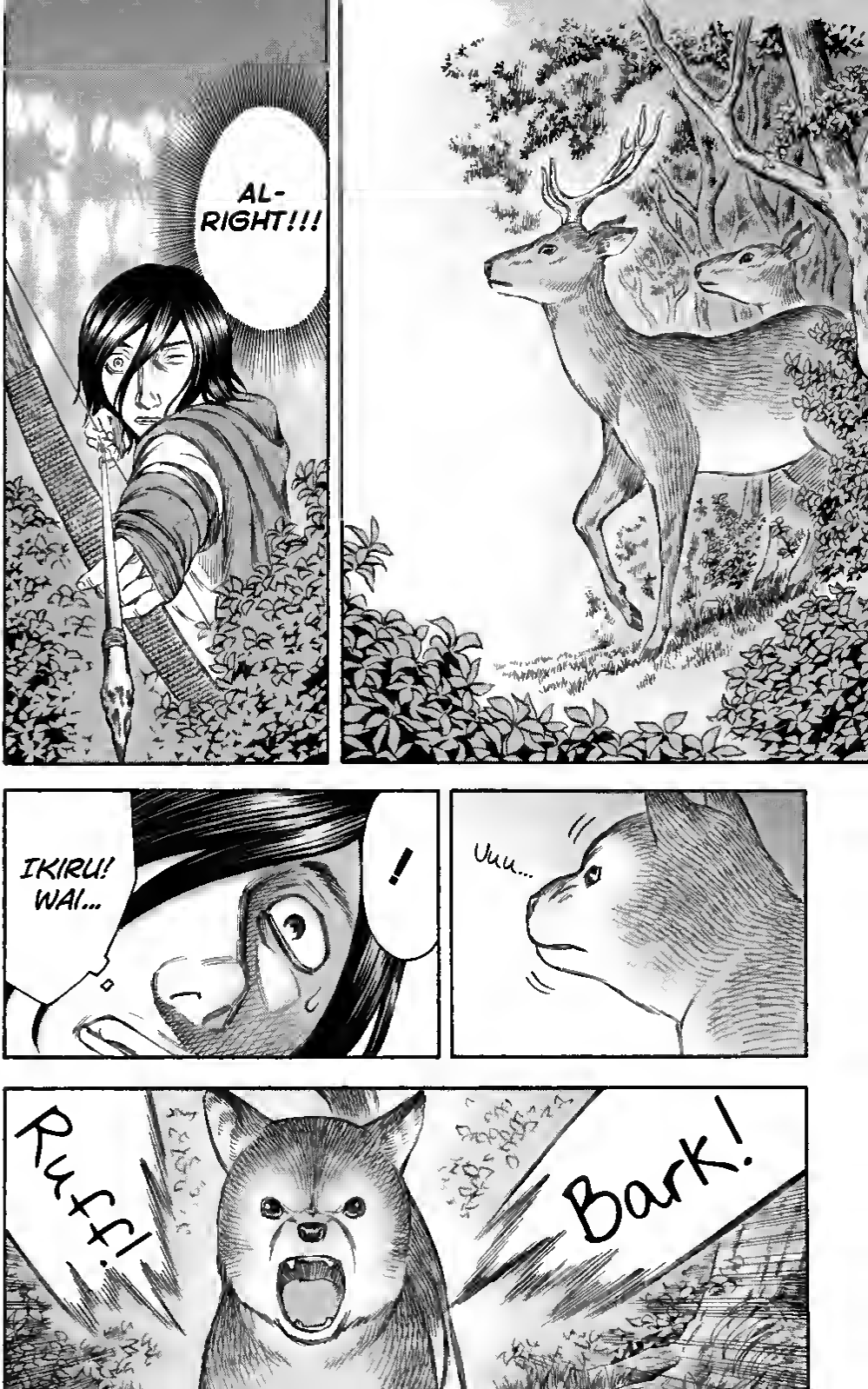

I THINK WE'RE PRETTY LOSE, THOUGH...
I CAN'T SEE TOO WELL...

YOU PICKED THEM UP!? ...GOOD.


Uu...
!



hoo
hoo
hoo
STAY STILL UNTIL I SHOOT... PLEASE.


AL-
RIGHT!!!
IKIRU!
WAI...
!
Uuu...
Ruff!
Bark!

!!!

WAIT!!
IKIRU!!
ワン
ワン

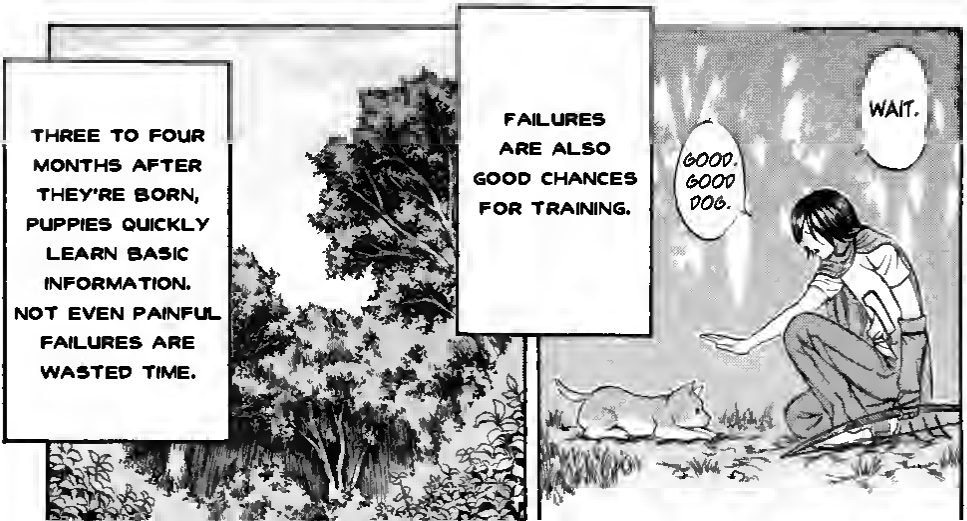
ウァン!!
ワン
ワン!
W-
WAIT!!

DAMMIT...
AHHHH,

THIS IS A NATURAL OCCURRENCE FOR AN INEXPERIENCED, YOUNG PUPPY. BUT SEI DOESN'T HAVE THE TIME TO WAIT FOR HIM TO MATURE.
WHETHER HE WAS MERELY SURPRISED AFTER SEEING DEER SO CLOSE FOR THE FIRST TIME, SEI'S INEXPERIENCED PARTNER JUMPED THE GUN.
……
ワン！
ワン
IKIRU IS A HUNTING DOG NOW, NOT A PET DOG.
Ruff
ビク
IKIRU!!!

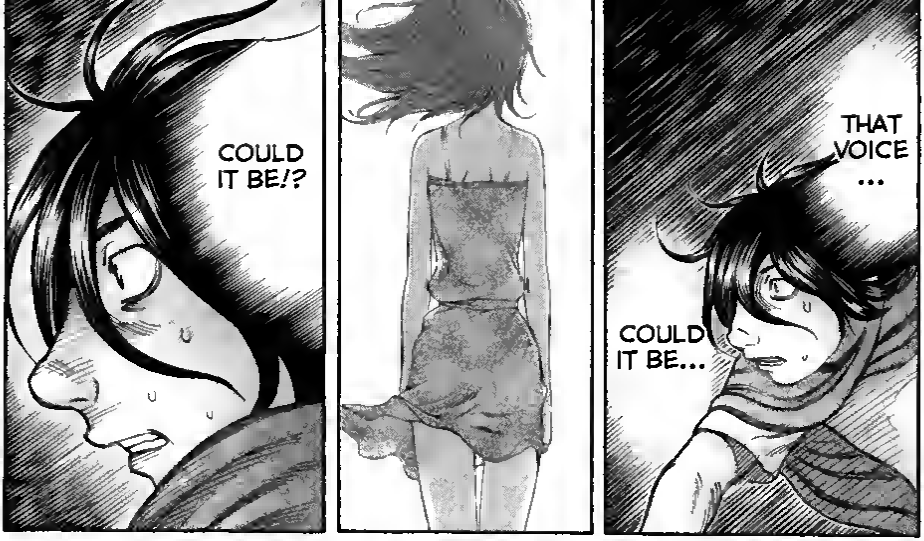
whine!
NO!!!

whine...


THREE TO FOUR MONTHS AFTER THEY'RE BORN, PUPPIES QUICKLY LEARN BASIC INFORMATION. NOT EVEN PAINFUL FAILURES ARE WASTED TIME.
FAILURES ARE ALSO GOOD CHANCES FOR TRAINING.
WAIT.
GOOD. GOOD DOG.

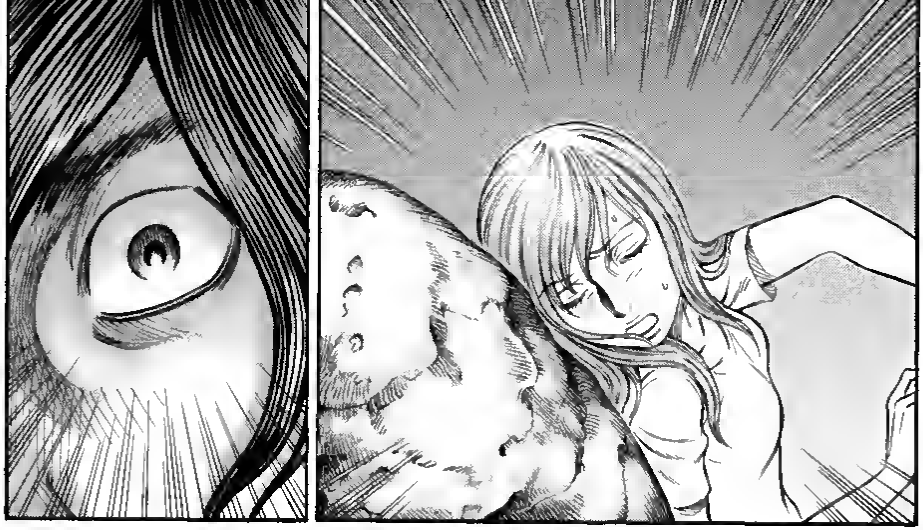
WE'VE GOTTEN DOWN PRETTY CLOSE NOW.
WE SHOULD BE BEHIND THE SCHOOL AFTER A LITTLE MORE.
EH?
AH, OKAY, LET'S GO.
Ruff!
Ruff Ruff!
OH YEAH. WE HAVE TO GO BRING THE MEAT!

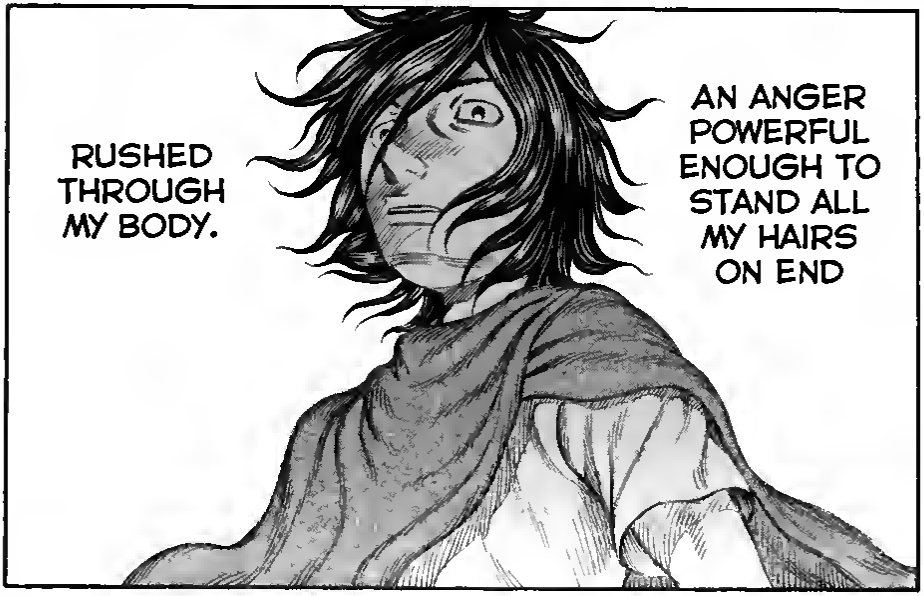
A VOICE...
A... SCREAM!??
!
PAPA!
YEAH, IT'S COMING FROM THE SCHOOL!
No..!
WAIT!
Ruff Ruff!


COULD IT BE!?
THAT VOICE ...
COULD IT BE...

COULD IT BE!!?

THERE!
THOSE TWO... I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING THEM BEFORE?
BUT... THAT HAIR...




AN ANGER POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STAND ALL MY HAIRS ON END
RUSHED THROUGH MY BODY.

AN UNKNOWN COUPLE OF MEN
WERE INTRUDING
ON MY TERRITORY.

WHAT WAS IT...
BUT,
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WAS MINE.
FEELING...
THIS INSUP-PRESSIBLE

IN CHASING THE BEASTS.
WITHIN THE MOUNTAINS, WHEN I WAS ABSORBED

THERE WAS SOMETHING I CAME TO UNDERSTAND.

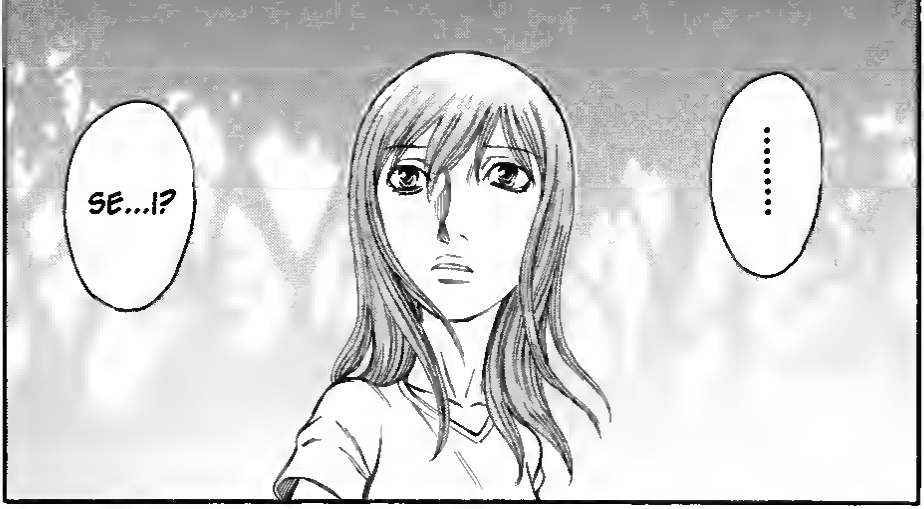
!!?
WHA...
AN ARROW!??
!

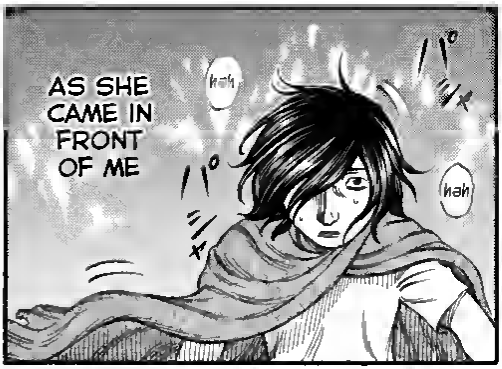
[Chapter 23 – Inside Me / End]

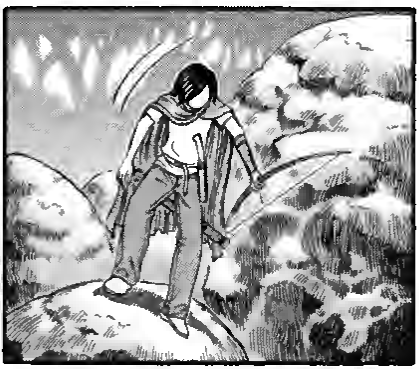
Chapter 24 – Return and Unrest

HEY...
WH... WHO THE HELL IS THAT!!?

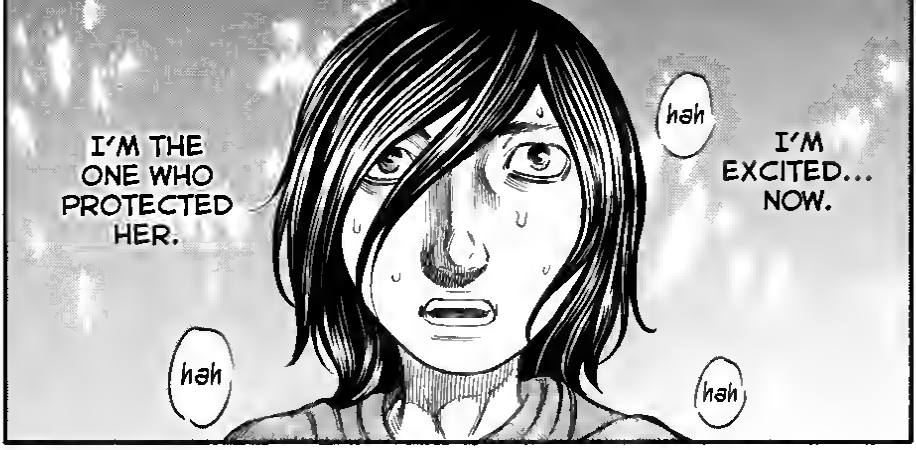
OHH.
LET'S GO.
WAI—
THAT GUY'S BAD NEWS... LET'S GO...
WAIT A MINUTE!!

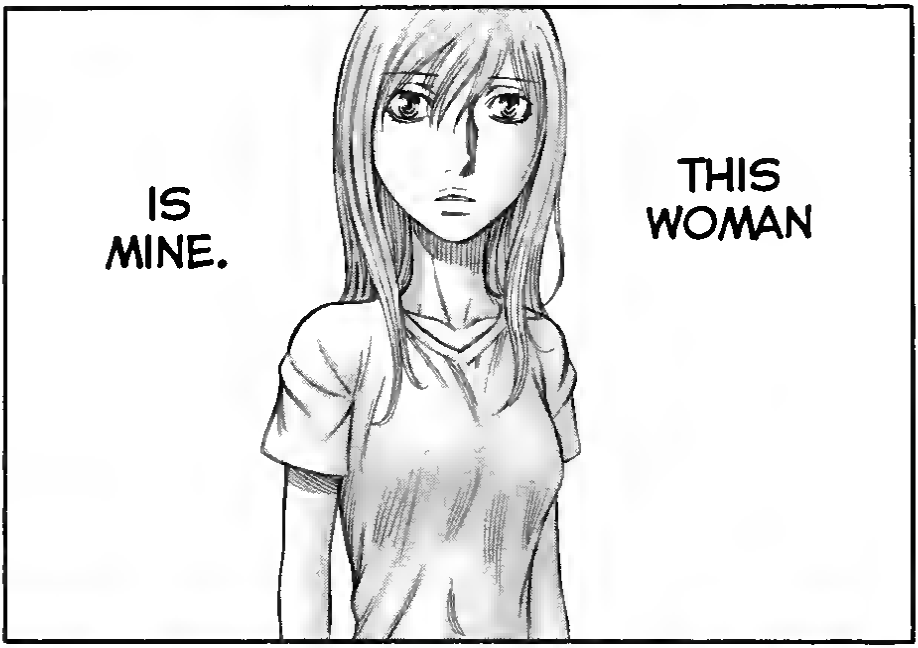

SE...I?
.....

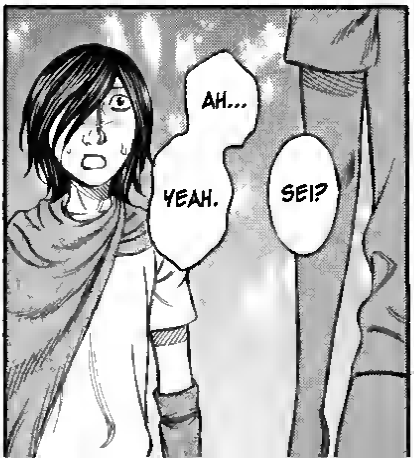

AS SHE CAME IN FRONT OF ME
hah
hah

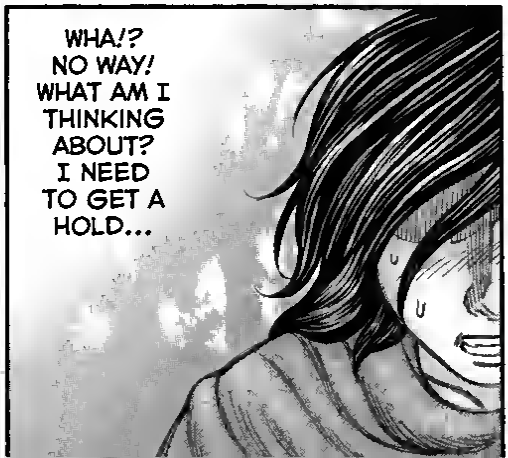


FLOWED THROUGH MY MIND.
VARIOUS EMOTIONS
hah
hah
hah


I'M THE ONE WHO PROTECTED HER.
hah
I'M EXCITED... NOW.
hah
hah

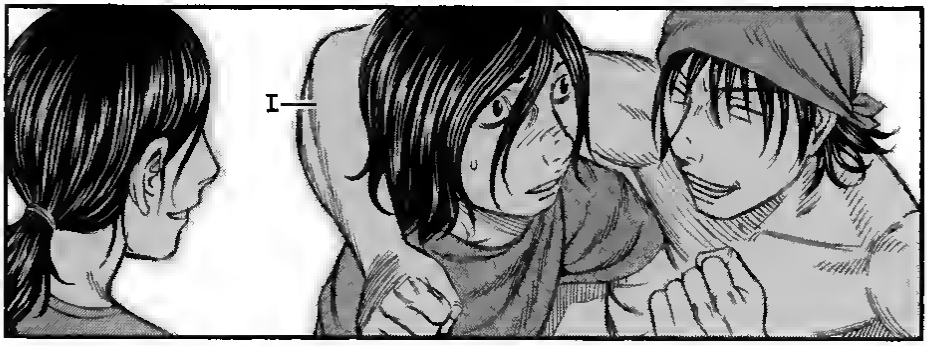

IS MINE.
THIS WOMAN

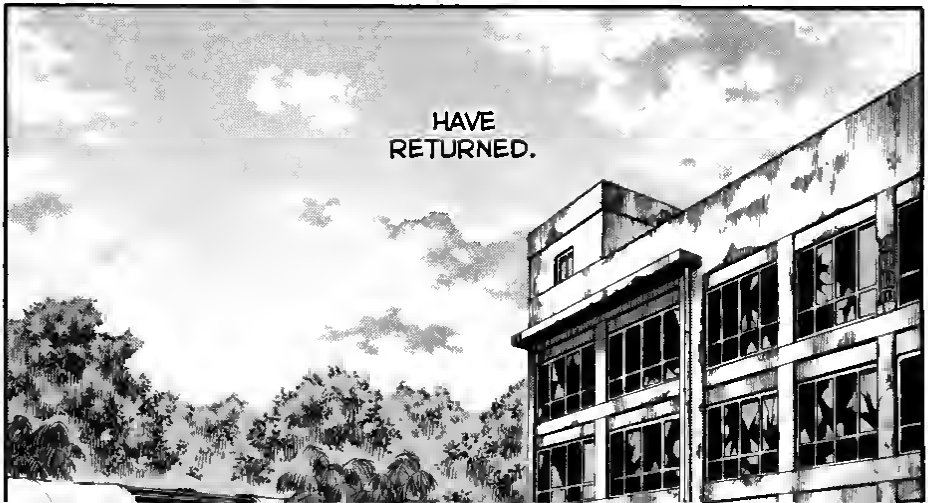

AH...
YEAH.
SEI?


WHA!? NO WAY! WHAT AM I THINKING ABOUT? I NEED TO GET A HOLD...

I'VE RETURNED.
I'M BACK...

SEEING EVERYONE'S FACES, I WAS RELIEVED.

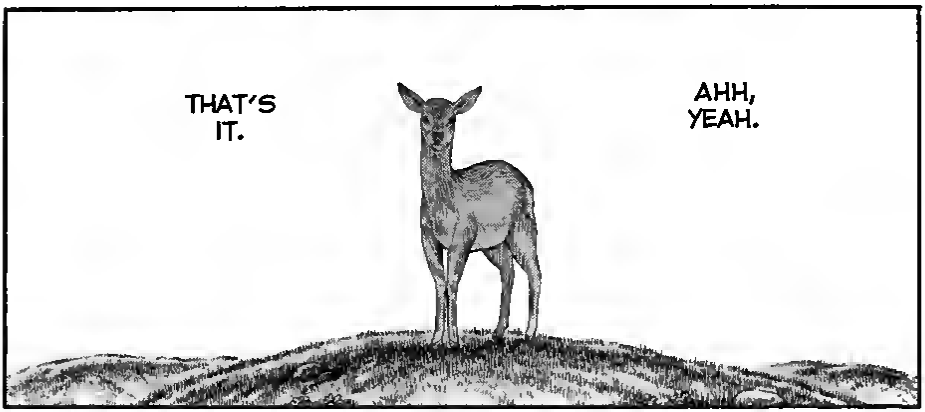

I—


HAVE RETURNED.

.....
SERIOUSLY...?
WHAT IS THIS!!?
THIS CAN'T BE DESCRIBED AS JUST DELICIOUS!
AMA-ZING...
THIS IS SO GOOD!!

IT REALLY MAKES YOU THINK... THIS IS CRAZY.
WAS MEAT REALLY THIS GOOD...?
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
THANK YOU.
IT REALLY... WAS GOOD!
SEI, THANKS.
EH? WAIT... I JUST—
YOU HAVE MY THANKS.
THANK YOU.
YEAH! THANKS!

THE NIGHT I GAVE MY FIRST THANKS.
THAT NIGHT.
Y...
THEN I REMEMBERED.
YOU'RE WELCOME ...


THAT'S IT.
AHH, YEAH.

THIS FEELING...
SO DOES
JUST LIKE LIFE CYCLES AROUND,

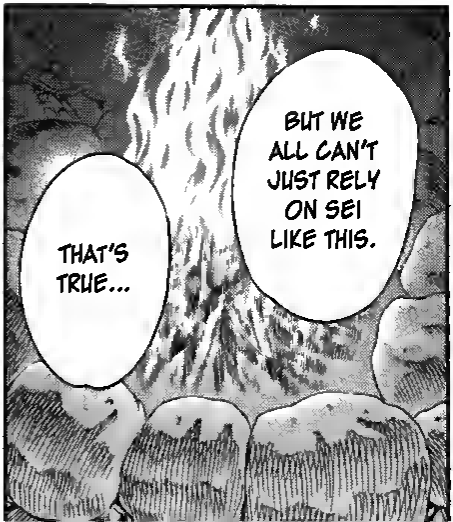
HOW WAS IT, THOUGH? REALLY.
HUNTING.
SEI.
WHAT ARE YOU STARING OFF INTO SPACE FOR?
AH, NO...
WELL, I THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF DEER OUT THERE.
I SAW TRACKS AND ACTUAL DEER MANY TIMES AS I WENT THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS.
WOAHH.
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY NATURAL ENEMIES... SO THERE MUST BE A GREAT NUMBER.
THEY DON'T COME DOWN HERE. BUT I SEE THEM TIME TO TIME WHENEVER WE GO INTO THE MOUNTAINS.

IT'D BE BEST IF WE COULD GET A STEADY SOURCE OF MEAT!
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT IF WE WORK TOGETHER, RIGHT?
WELL, AC-TUALLY—

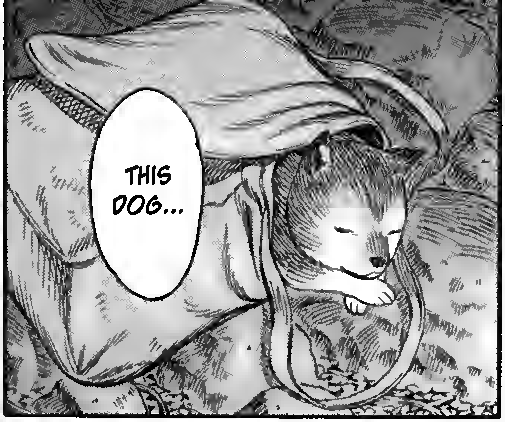
WELL, I CAN'T GO INTO THE MOUNTAINS FOR DAYS AT A TIME AND HUNT DEER LIKE YOU, SEI.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD PERSONALLY TEACH PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HUNT.

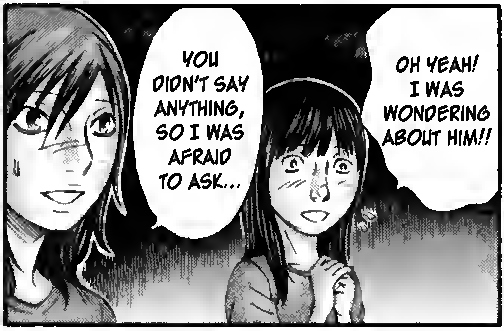
I THINK IT'D BE HARD TO HUNT WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE... IF THEY NOTICE ANYTHING, THEY'LL RUN.
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT BASICALLY HAS TO BE DONE ALONE.

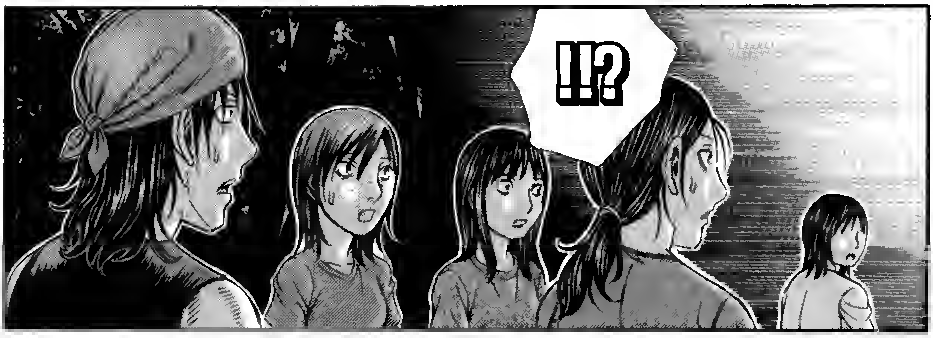
I HAVE TO TELL TO YOU...
AND THERE'S ONE MORE THING...


BUT WE ALL CAN'T JUST RELY ON SEI LIKE THIS.
THAT'S TRUE...

I GOT HIM FROM A PERSON.


THIS DOG...

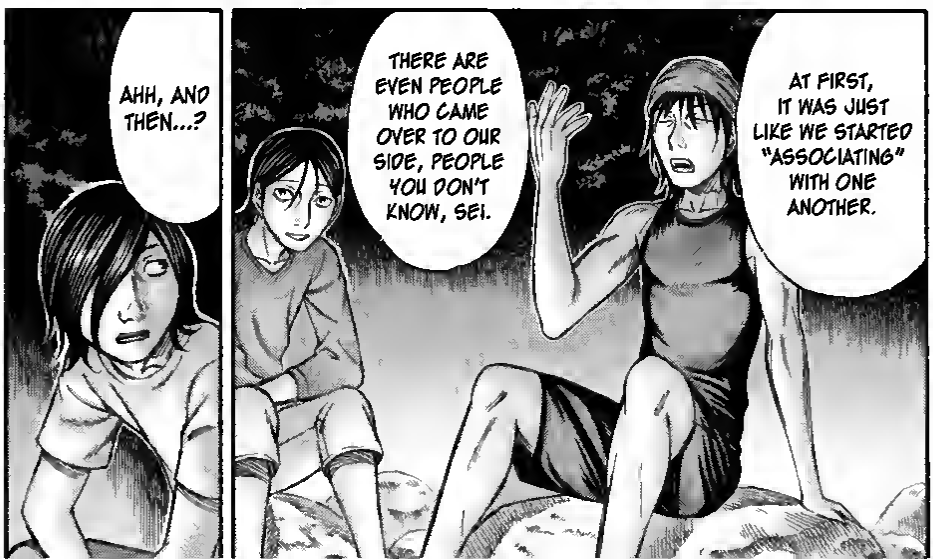

YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, SO I WAS AFRAID TO ASK...
OH YEAH! I WAS WONDERING ABOUT HIM!!


!!?

ABOUT HOW HE WAS TAUGHT TO SMOKE MEAT IN EXCHANGE FOR GIVING UP SOME OF IT, ABOUT HOW HE GOT A DOG... AND——
THE PERSON HAD REQUESTED THAT SEI NOT SAY ANYTHING, BUT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THE ISLAND'S SENIOR INHABITANT.

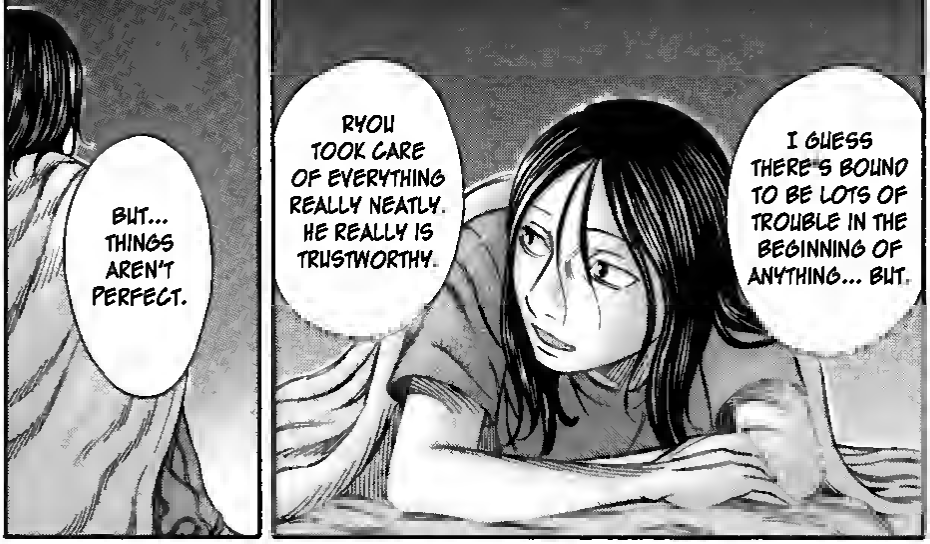
SO... THINGS DID END UP IN FIGHTING AFTER ALL...
AFTER ALL?
HE WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT SURVIVED...?
THAT'S HORRIBLE...
A NO MAN'S ISLAND...!?

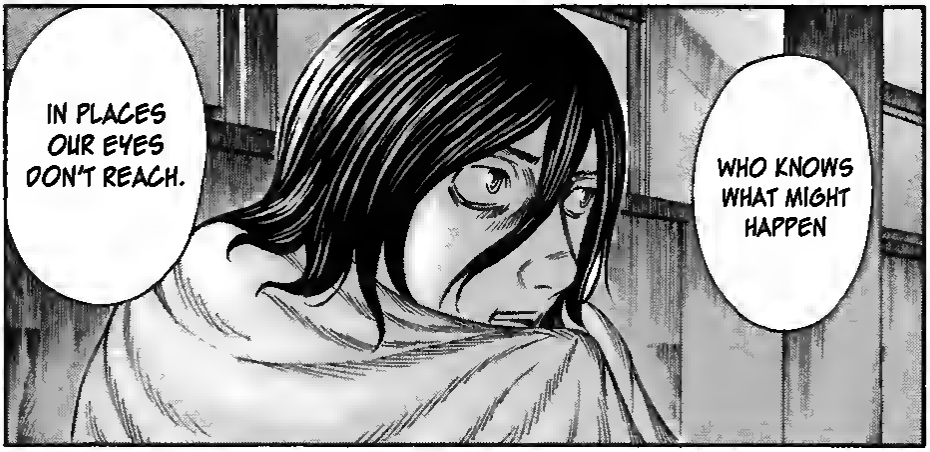
NO, IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE FOR A SERIOUS FIGHT TO START AT ANY TIME.
IT WAS MORE LIKE A LITTLE BRUSH THAN ANYTHING.
WE HAD TROUBLE ON OUR END TOO... WITH THE GROUP AT THE PORT.

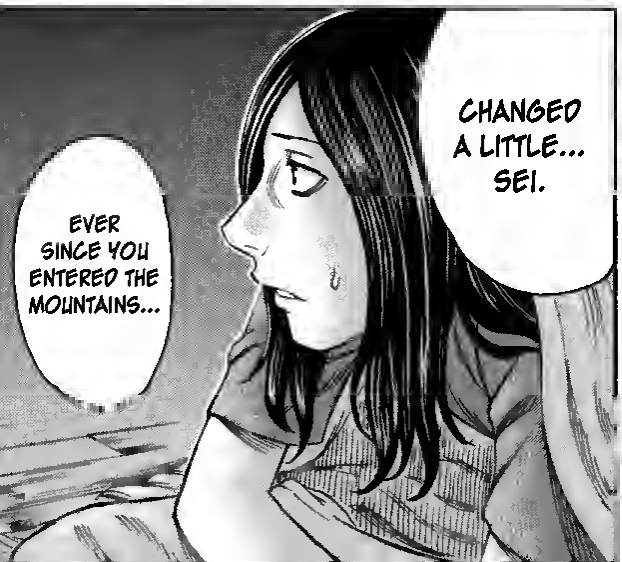

AHH, AND THEN...?
THERE ARE EVEN PEOPLE WHO CAME OVER TO OUR SIDE, PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW, SEI.
AT FIRST, IT WAS JUST LIKE WE STARTED "ASSOCIATING" WITH ONE ANOTHER.

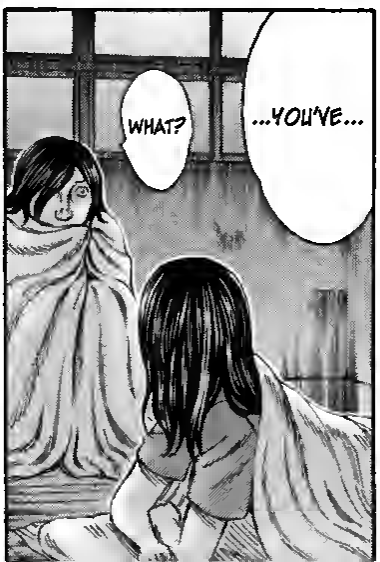
FIGHTING IS STARTING ON THIS LAWLESS ISLAND.
HIS WORDS...
HE SAID HE WANTED TO BE ALONE.
SPREAD UNREST IN MY HEART.

モゾ…
……
SEI.
LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN'T SLEEP.
I WAS SLEEPING ALONE FOR SO LONG... ANOTHER PERSON'S PRESENCE IS...
THERE ARE NEW PEOPLE HERE, TOO. DOES IT BUG YOU?
YEAH... A LITTLE.


I GUESS THERE'S BOUND TO BE LOTS OF TROUBLE IN THE BEGINNING OF ANYTHING... BUT.
RYOU TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING REALLY NEATLY. HE REALLY IS TRUSTWORTHY.
BUT... THINGS AREN'T PERFECT.


WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN
IN PLACES OUR EYES DON'T REACH.

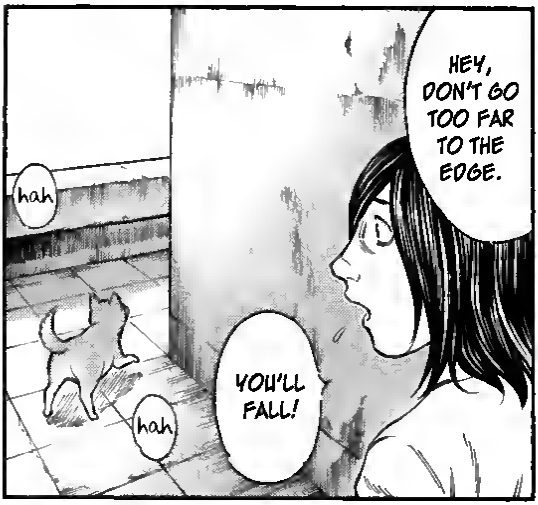

CHANGED A LITTLE... SEI.
EVER SINCE YOU ENTERED THE MOUNTAINS...

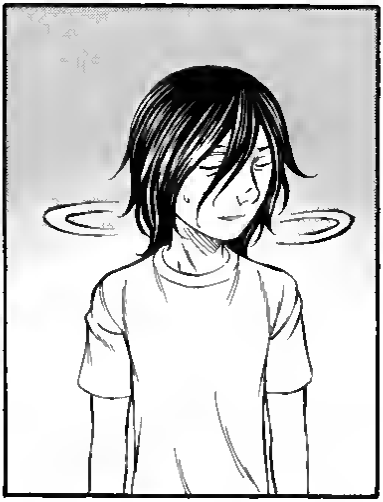

...YOU'VE...
WHAT?

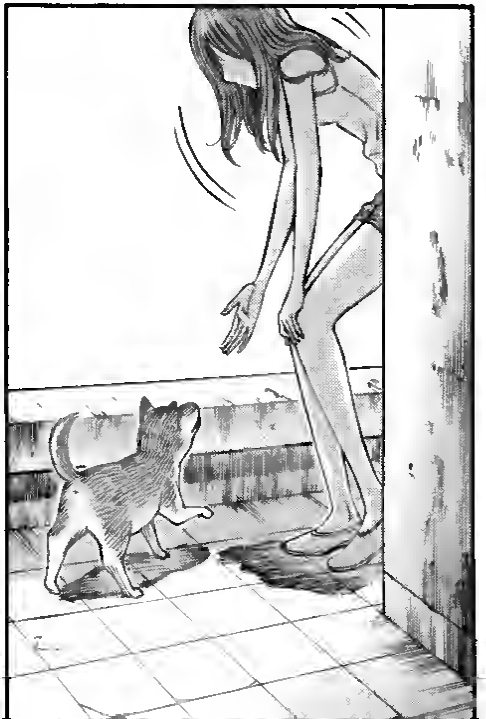
YOU'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE... SCARY.
.....

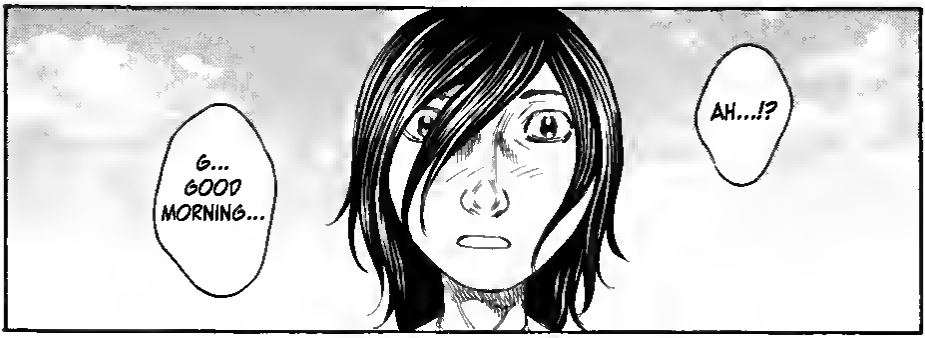
IN THE END, I WASN'T ABLE TO SLEEP MUCH.
AND MORNING CAME.

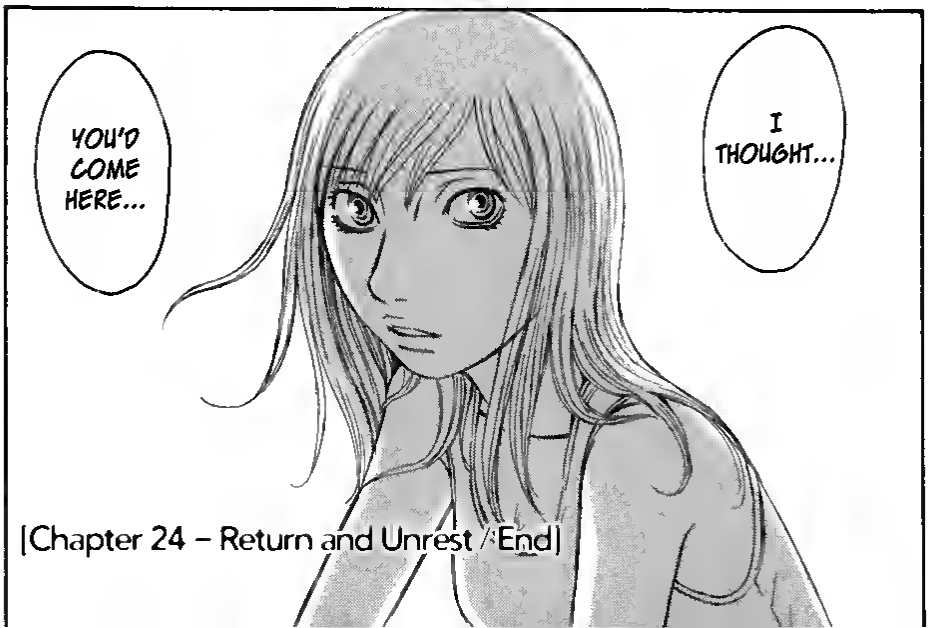
.....
ヒュウウ--
SSSH!
IT'S STILL EARLY...
Ruff!


HEY, DON'T GO TOO FAR TO THE EDGE.
YOU'LL FALL!
hah
hah

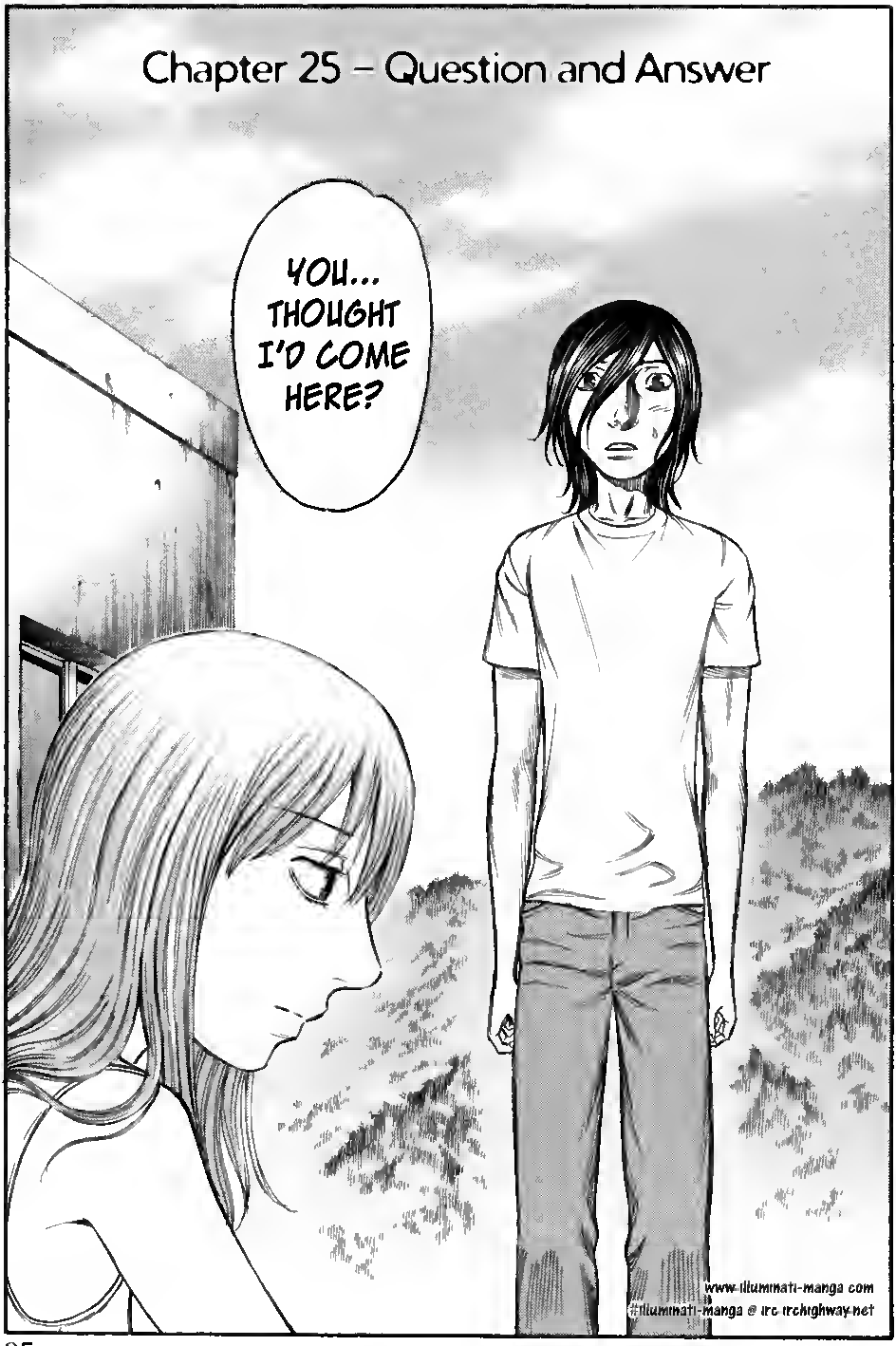


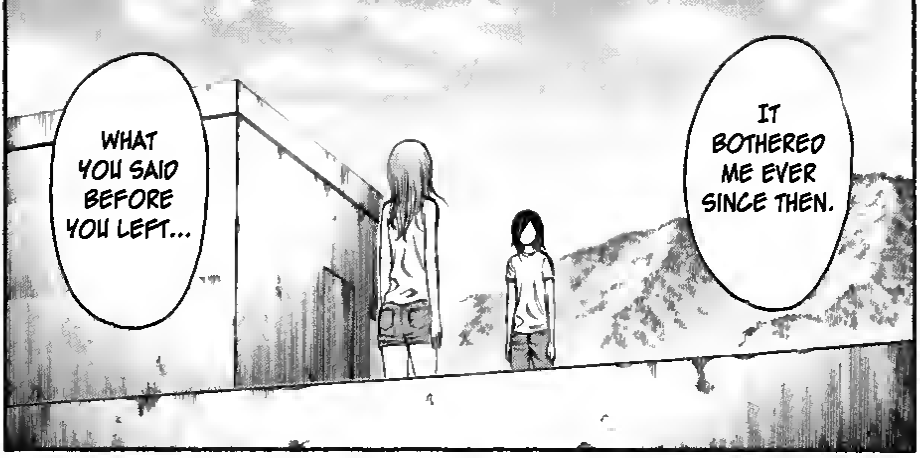


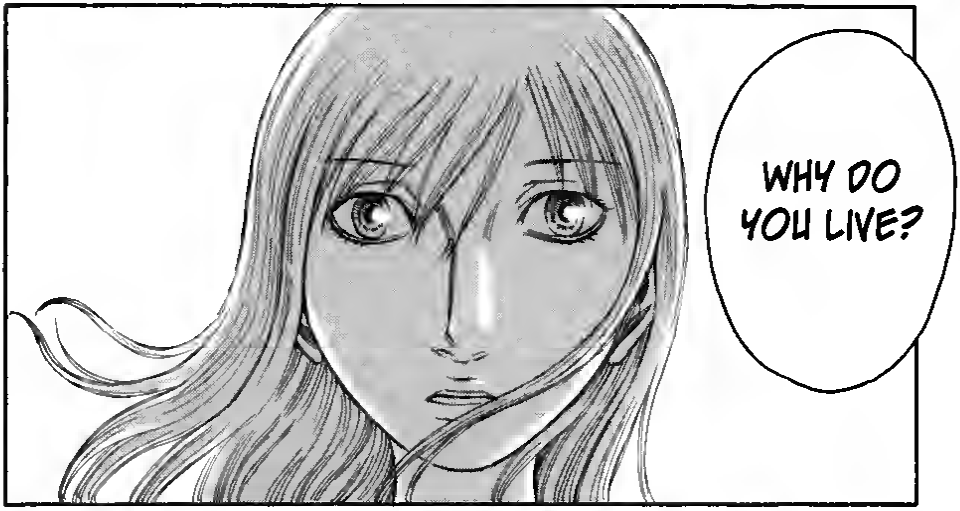




[Chapter 24 – Return and Unrest / End]

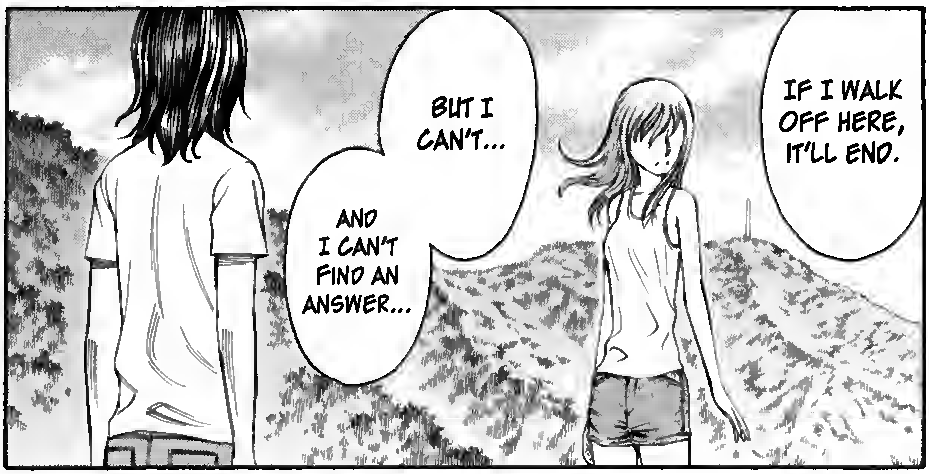

Chapter 25 – Question and Answer
YOU... THOUGHT I'D COME HERE?
www.illuminati-manga.com
#illuminati-manga @ irc.irchighway.net

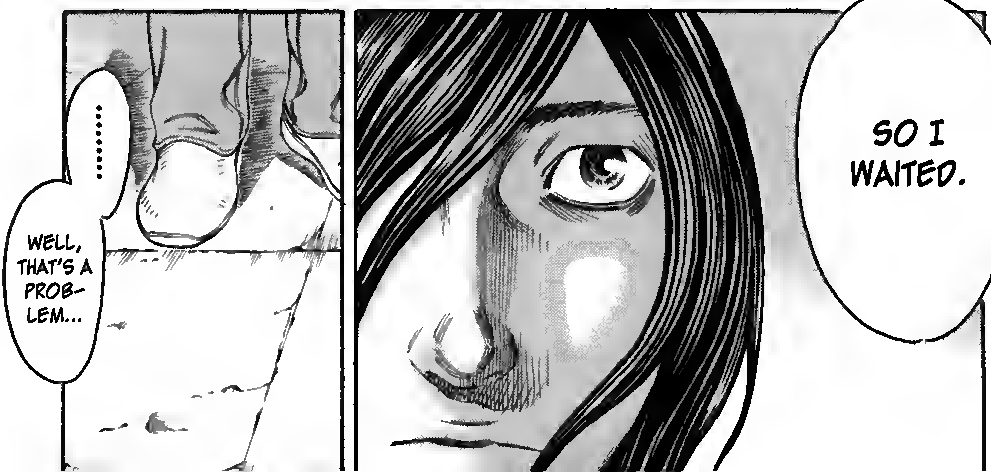

WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE YOU LEFT...
IT BOTHERED ME EVER SINCE THEN.

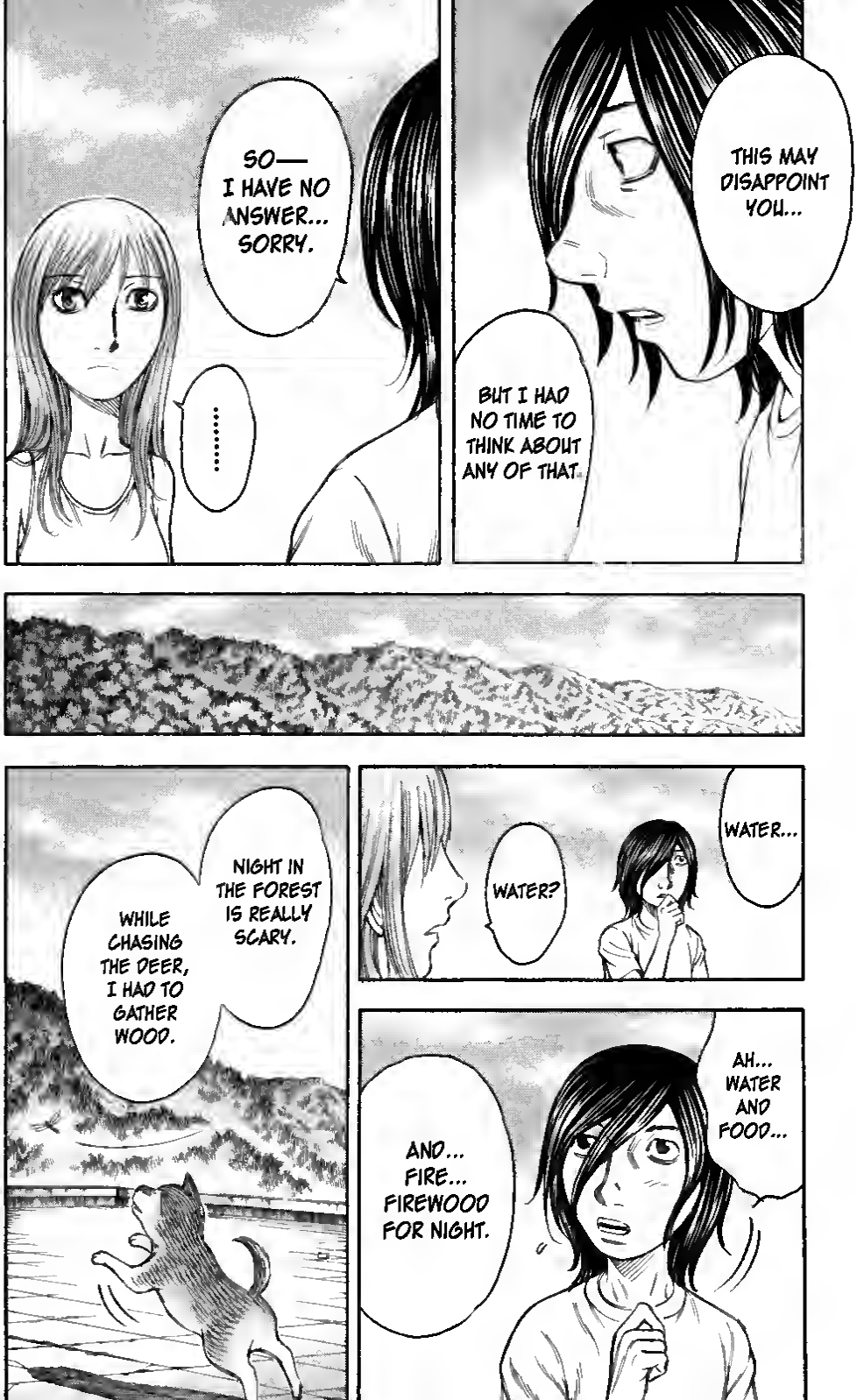

WHY DO YOU LIVE?

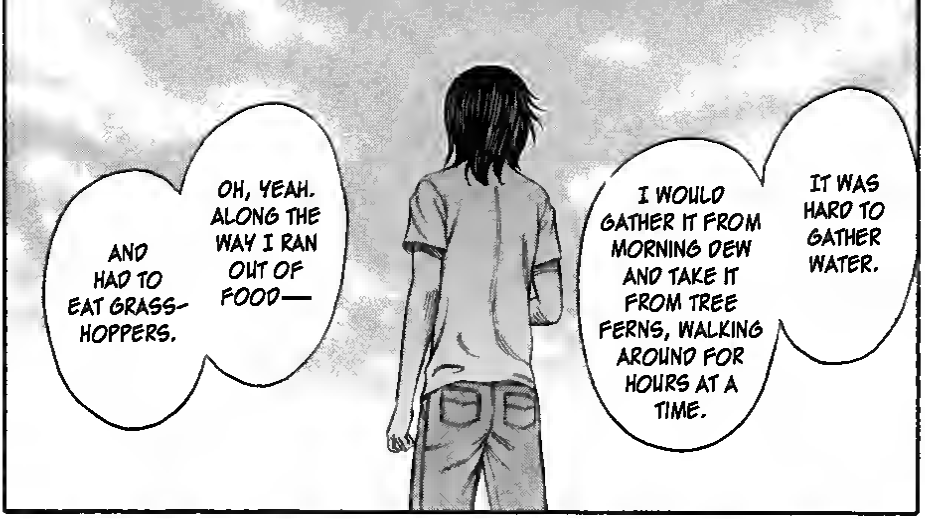
!
I COULDN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD.
I...
FELT EMBARRASSED AT MYSELF FOR BEING TOO AFRAID TO DIE.

I'M A PILE OF UGLINESS... AND IT EMBARRASSES ME.
I LIE, I DEFILE. I DO THINGS I DISLIKE,
THAT OTHER PEOPLE DISLIKE.
I AM AN OBJECT OF DESIRE.
AND I HAVE MY OWN DESIRES.
I HURT, AND I GET HURT.

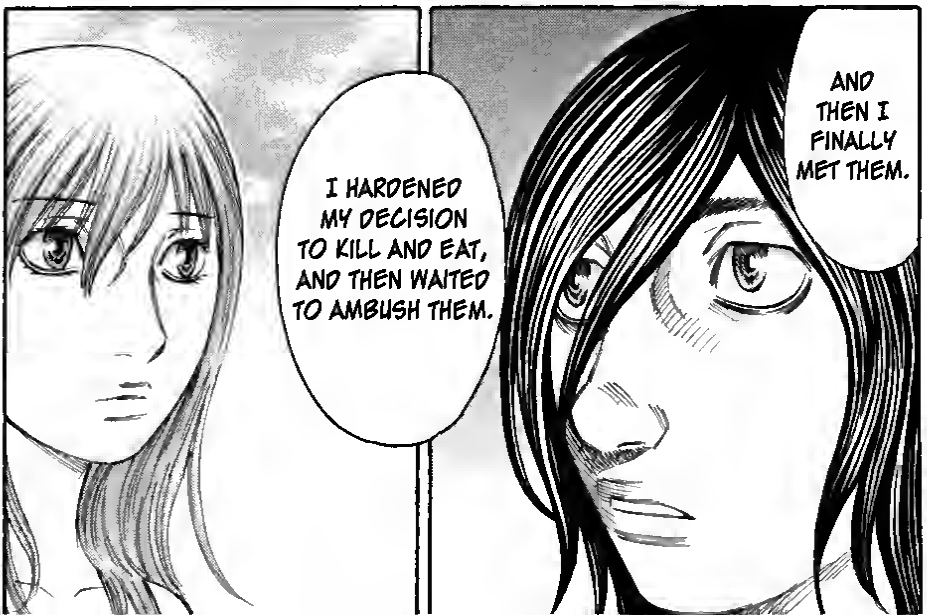

BUT I CAN'T...
AND I CAN'T FIND AN ANSWER...
IF I WALK OFF HERE, IT'LL END.

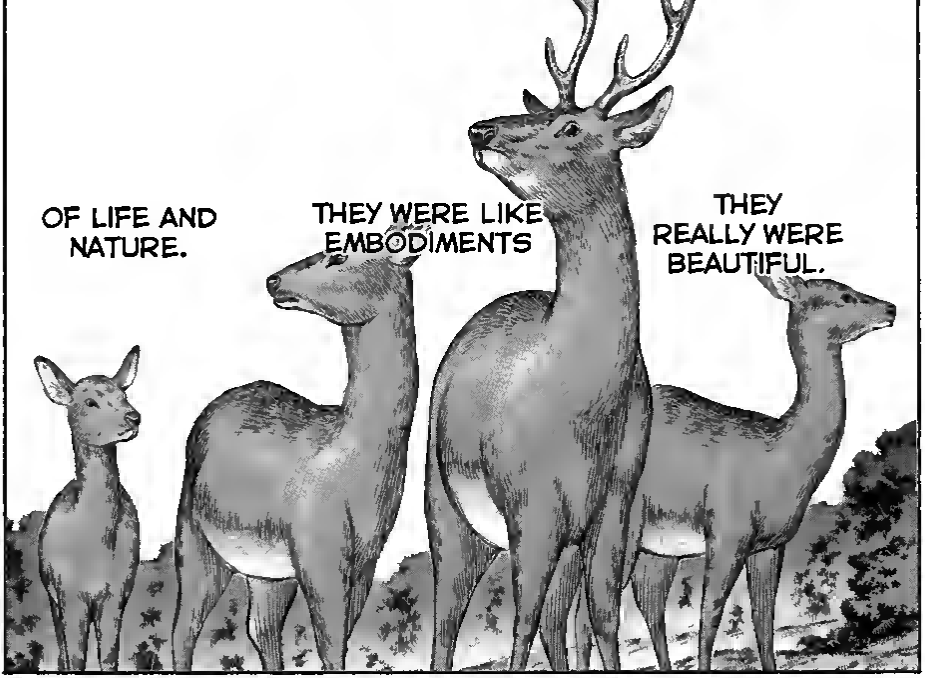

.....
WELL, THAT'S A PROBLEM...
SO I WAITED.

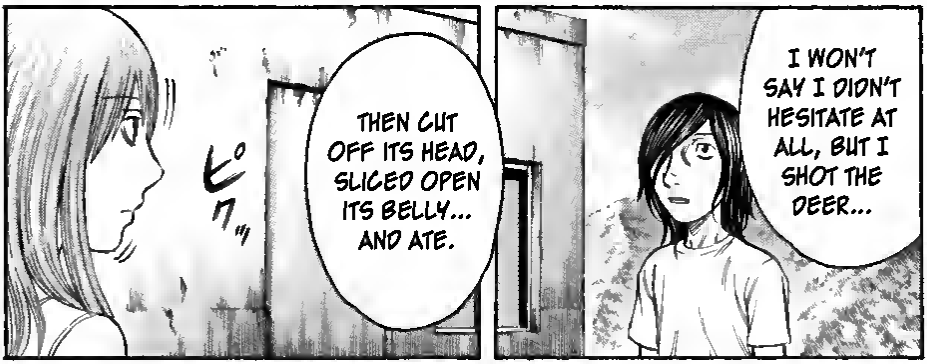

THIS MAY DISAPPOINT YOU...
BUT I HAD NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT ANY OF THAT.
SO— I HAVE NO ANSWER... SORRY.
.....
WATER...
WATER?
AH... WATER AND FOOD...
AND... FIRE... FIREWOOD FOR NIGHT.
NIGHT IN THE FOREST IS REALLY SCARY.
WHILE CHASING THE DEER, I HAD TO GATHER WOOD.


IT WAS HARD TO GATHER WATER.
I WOULD GATHER IT FROM MORNING DEW AND TAKE IT FROM TREE FERNS, WALKING AROUND FOR HOURS AT A TIME.
OH, YEAH. ALONG THE WAY I RAN OUT OF FOOD—
AND HAD TO EAT GRASS-HOPPERS.

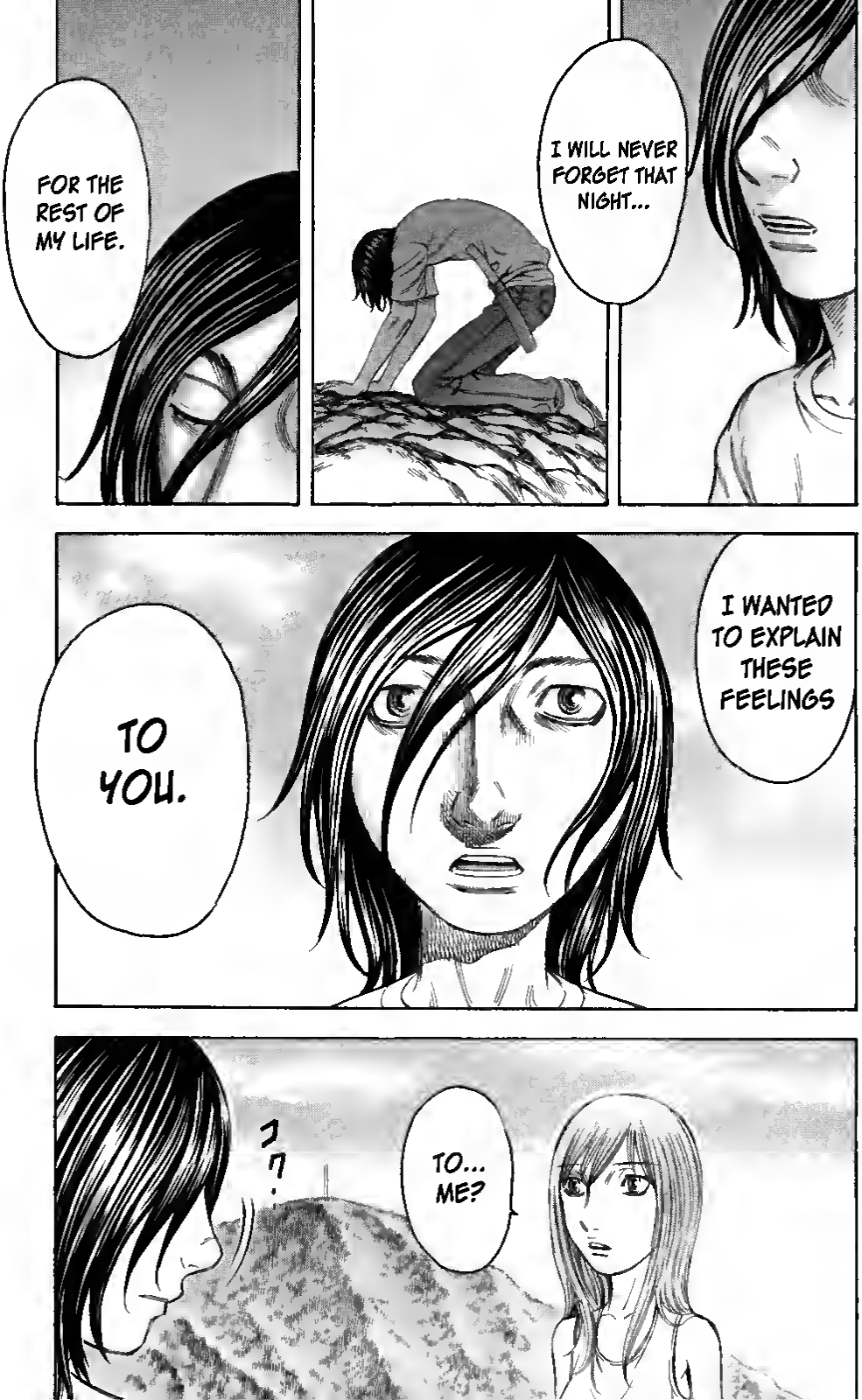
I WAS ABSORBED. I CONTINUED SLEEPING OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS,
JUST CHASING THE DEER.


AND THEN I FINALLY MET THEM.
I HARDENED MY DECISION TO KILL AND EAT, AND THEN WAITED TO AMBUSH THEM.


THEY REALLY WERE BEAUTIFUL.
THEY WERE LIKE EMBODIMENTS
OF LIFE AND NATURE.


I WON'T SAY I DIDN'T HESITATE AT ALL, BUT I SHOT THE DEER...
THEN CUT OFF ITS HEAD, SLICED OPEN ITS BELLY... AND ATE.
ヒヮ

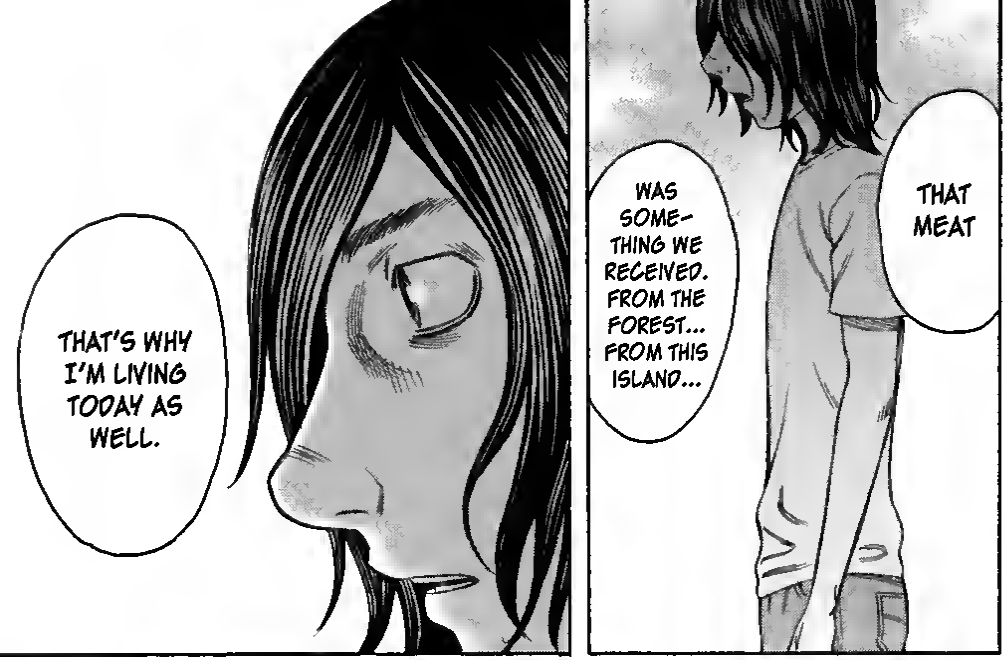
UNTIL THEN, IT WAS LIKE I WAS IN A TRANCE... AND
SUDDENLY I SAW THE DEER DOWN BESIDE ME.
I BURIED ITS HEAD AND GUTS IN THE GROUND.

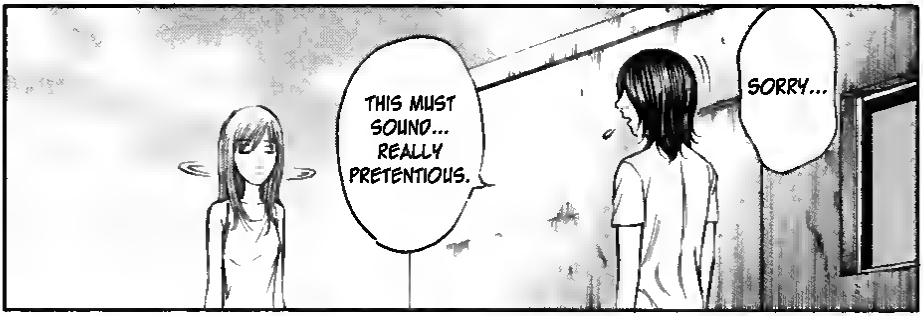

I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT NIGHT...
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I WANTED TO EXPLAIN THESE FEELINGS
TO YOU.
TO... ME?

I... NO, WE
STAND UPON COUNTLESS LIVES.

I FEEL CLEARLY NOW HOW WE ARE RECEIVING LIFE FROM THESE DEER, THESE TREES...
...THIS ISLAND.

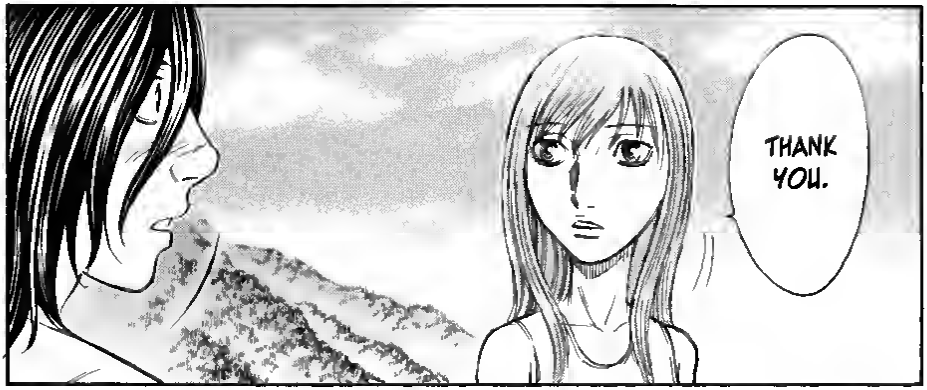
FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, MY NIGHTS IN THE FOREST WEREN'T SCARY ANYMORE.
I SLEPT SOUNDLY, AS IF I WAS BEING ENVELOPED.

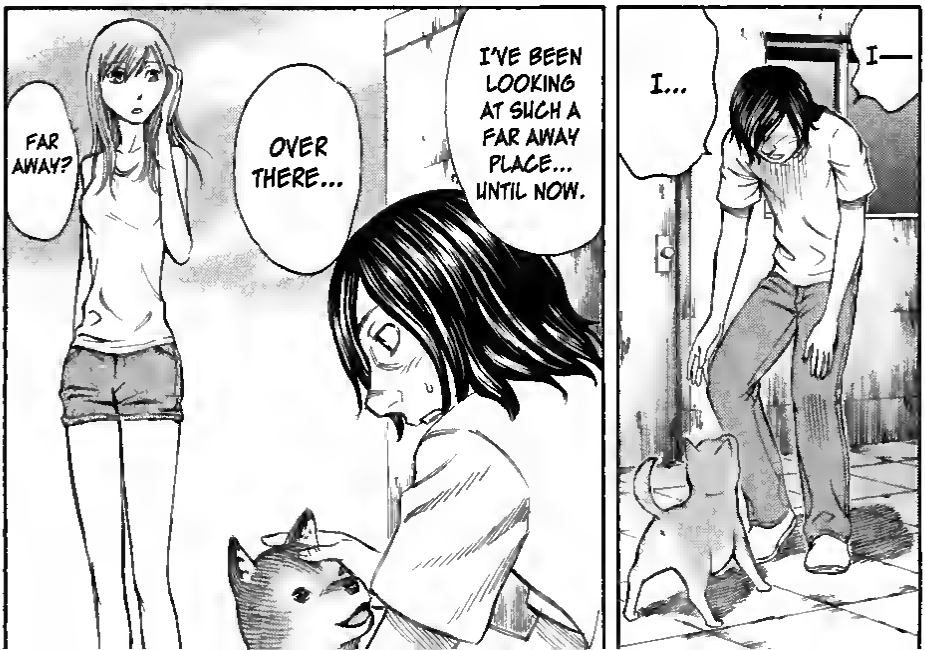

THAT MEAT
WAS SOMETHING WE RECEIVED. FROM THE FOREST... FROM THIS ISLAND...
THAT'S WHY I'M LIVING TODAY AS WELL.

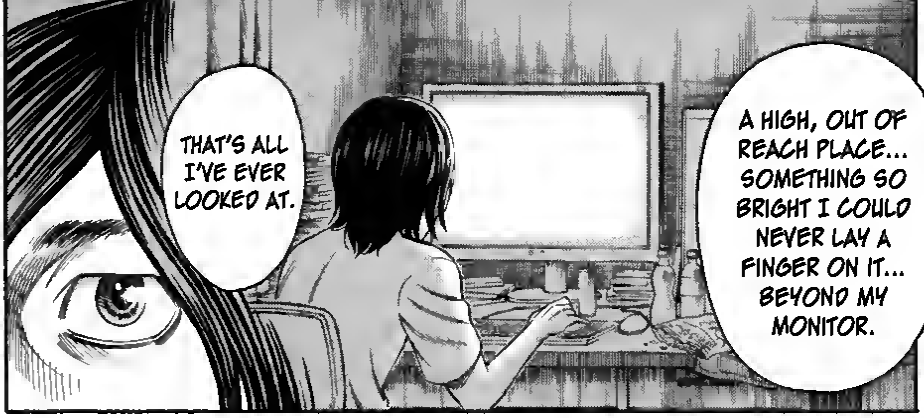

SORRY...
THIS MUST SOUND... REALLY PRETENTIOUS.

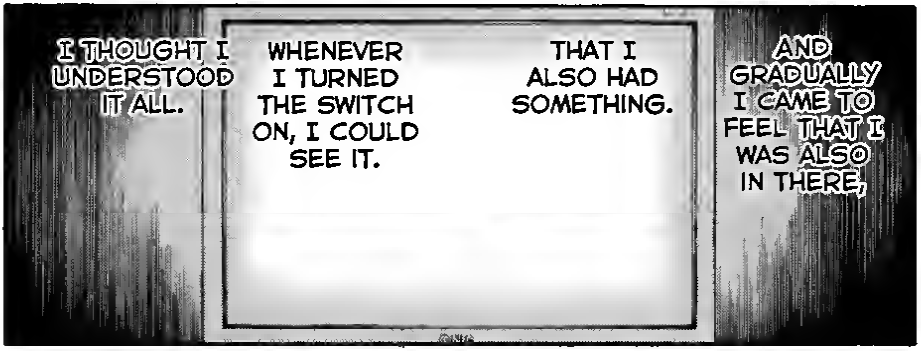
THE MEAT YESTERDAY—
WAS REALLY DELICIOUS...
AND A BIT... SAD.

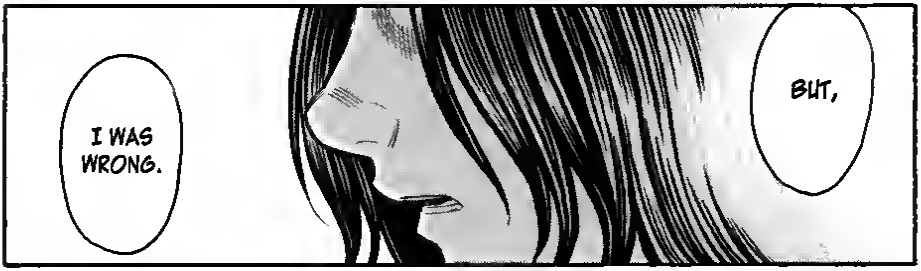
BUT,
THAT'S WHY I'M LIVING TODAY, TOO.
YEAH.

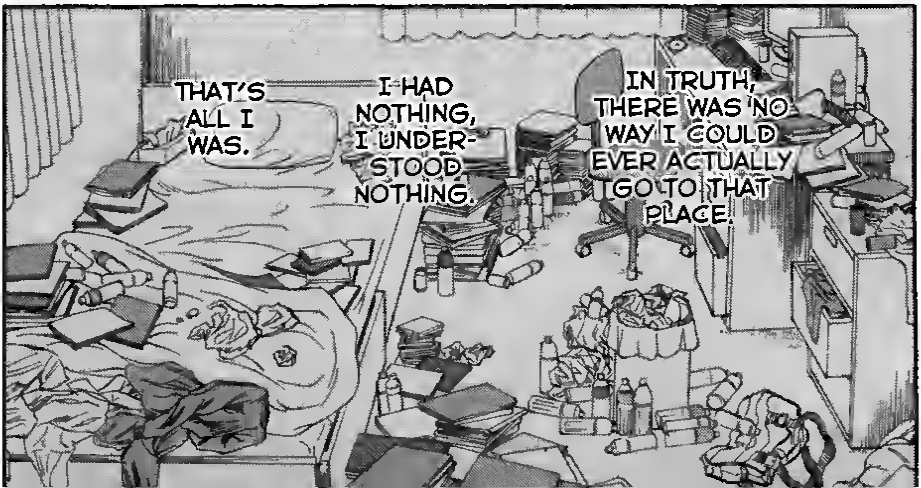

THANK YOU.

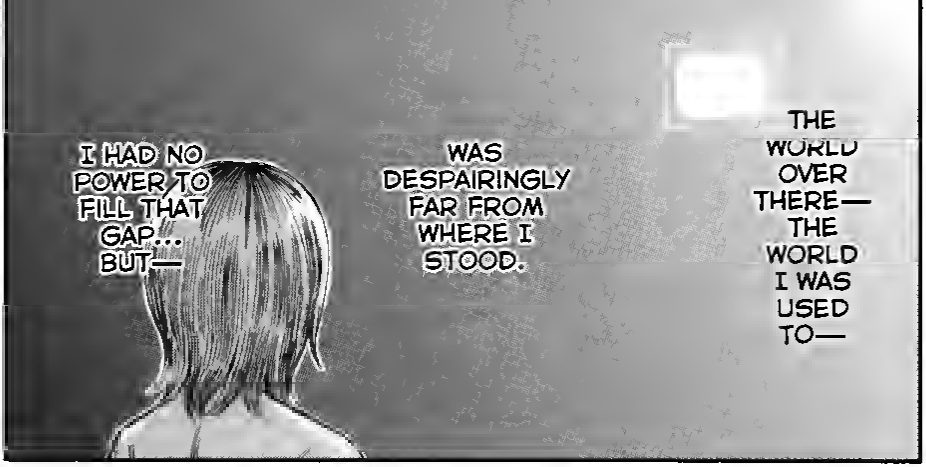

I—
I...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT SUCH A FAR AWAY PLACE... UNTIL NOW.
OVER THERE...
FAR AWAY?

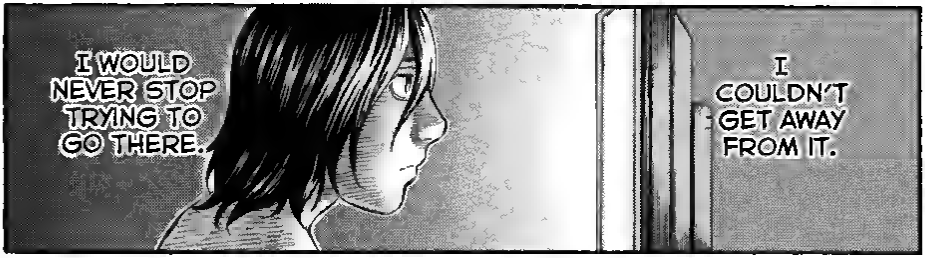

THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER LOOKED AT.
A HIGH, OUT OF REACH PLACE... SOMETHING SO BRIGHT I COULD NEVER LAY A FINGER ON IT... BEYOND MY MONITOR.

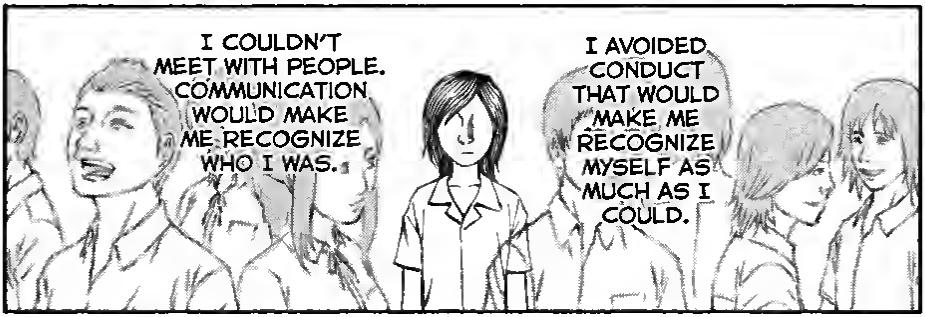

I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD IT ALL.
WHENEVER I TURNED THE SWITCH ON, I COULD SEE IT.
THAT I ALSO HAD SOMETHING.
AND GRADUALLY I CAME TO FEEL THAT I WAS ALSO IN THERE,

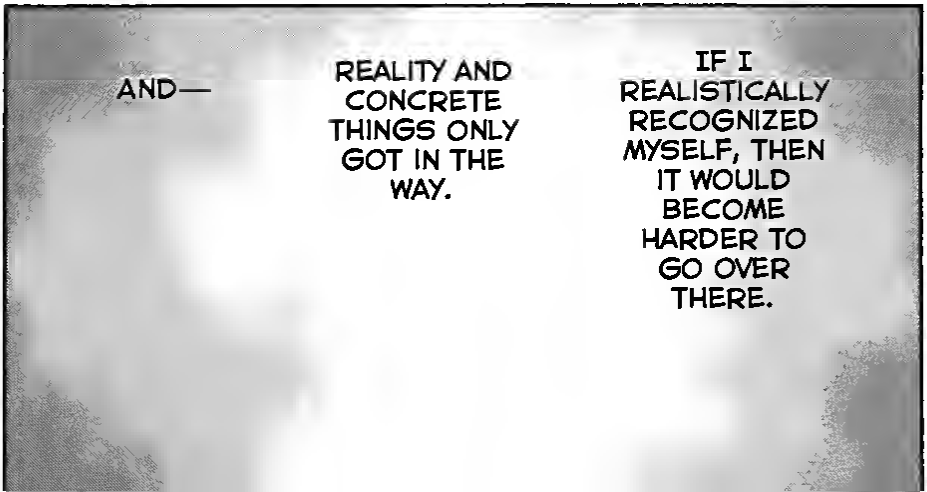

I WAS WRONG.
BUT,


THAT'S ALL I WAS.
I HAD NOTHING, I UNDERSTOOD NOTHING.
IN TRUTH, THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD EVER ACTUALLY GO TO THAT PLACE.


I HAD NO POWER TO FILL THAT GAP... BUT—
WAS DESPAIRINGLY FAR FROM WHERE I STOOD.
THE WORLD OVER THERE— THE WORLD I WAS USED TO—


I WOULD NEVER STOP TRYING TO GO THERE.
I COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM IT.


I COULDN'T MEET WITH PEOPLE. COMMUNICATION WOULD MAKE ME RECOGNIZE WHO I WAS.
I AVOIDED CONDUCT THAT WOULD MAKE ME RECOGNIZE MYSELF AS MUCH AS I COULD.


AND—
REALITY AND CONCRETE THINGS ONLY GOT IN THE WAY.
IF I REALISTICALLY RECOGNIZED MYSELF, THEN IT WOULD BECOME HARDER TO GO OVER THERE.

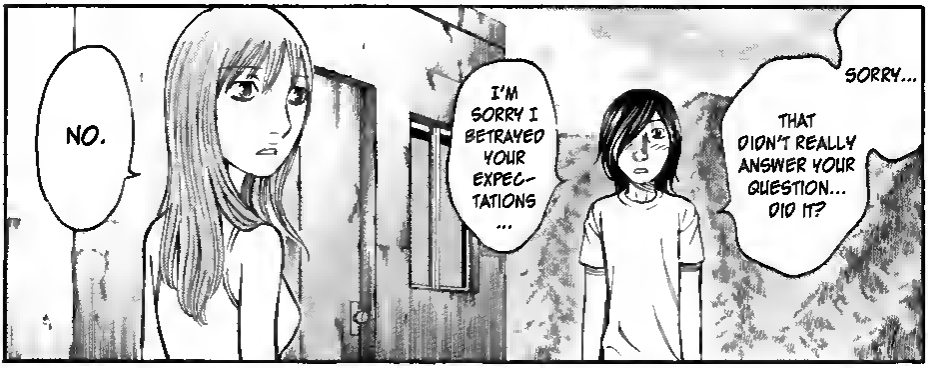
I GRADUALLY LOST MY SELF-RECOGNITION...
AND MY EXISTENCE.
I MAY HAVE PURPOSEFULLY TRIED TO LOSE MYSELF.
NO...

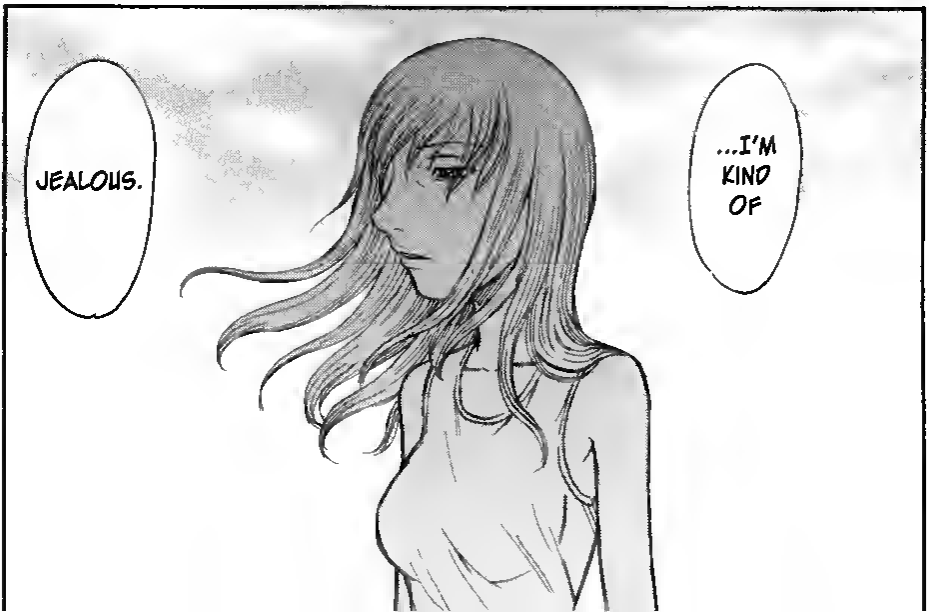
I DUNNO... BUT,
WHAT CHANGED ABOUT YOU...?
AND THAT'S

IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING NOW, I WON'T LIVE ON TO TOMORROW.
I HAVE NO WAY TO LOOK FAR AWAY.
I SIMPLY HAVE TO LOOK AT WHERE I'M STANDING AND WHAT'S IN FRONT OF ME HERE.

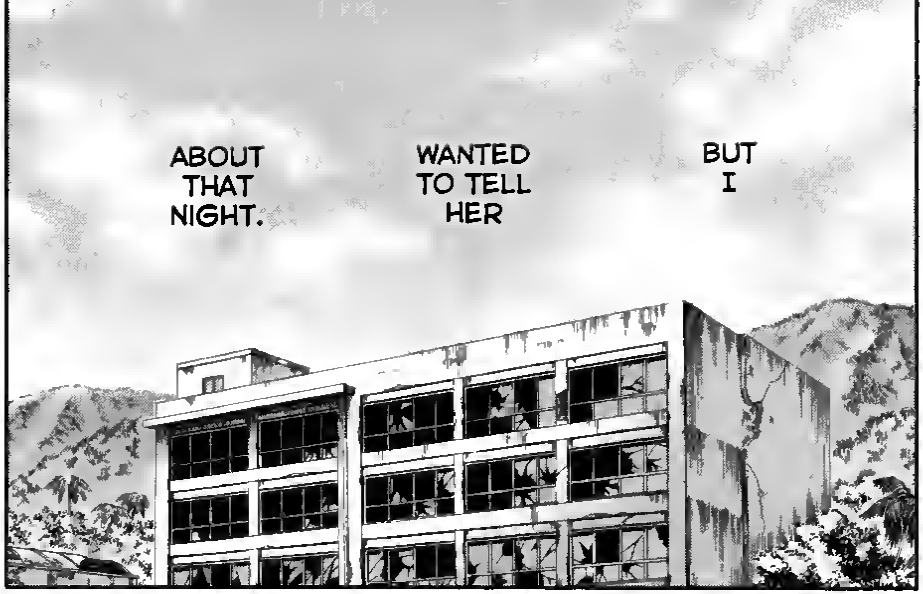
TEACH ME THAT EVERY DAY.
PAIN AND FEAR—
HEAT AND COLD,
THIRST AND HUNGER.

SO I'M JUST LOOKING AT WHAT'S IN FRONT OF ME... LOOKING AT WHERE I STAND.
AND DOING WHAT I HAVE TO RIGHT NOW.
.....


SORRY...
THAT DIDN'T REALLY ANSWER YOUR QUESTION... DID IT?
I'M SORRY I BETRAYED YOUR EXPEC-TATIONS ...
NO.


...I'M KIND OF
JEALOUS.

AND MY DARKNESS ARE DIFFERENT.
HER DARKNESS
OH NO... I THOUGHT.
JEAL... OUS...?
HER QUESTION.
WON'T FIT
MY ANSWER
ARE THEIR ANSWERS ALL DIFFERENT TOO, THEN?
EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN DARKNESS.
AND IT'S NOT JUST HER.


BUT I
WANTED TO TELL HER
ABOUT THAT NIGHT.

WOW.
YEAH... WAY BIGGER THAN THE ONE WE USED TO FISH BEFORE.
YOU MIGHT REALLY BE ABLE TO THROW OUT A BIG NET THEN.

YOU'RE MAKING A RAFT?

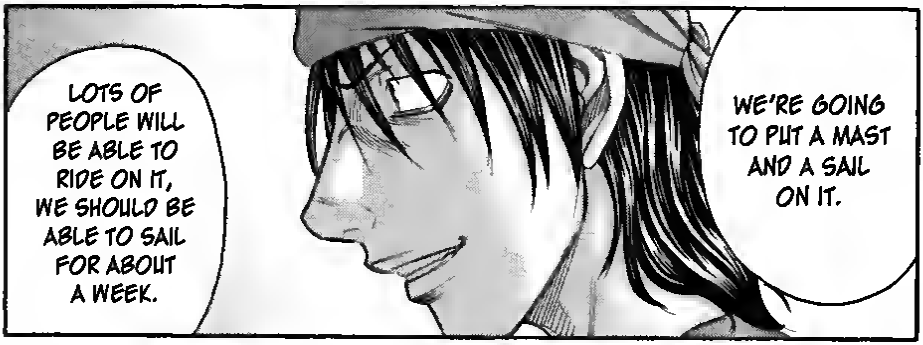
EH?
MMM... I DON'T THINK WE'LL USE IT FOR FISHING...

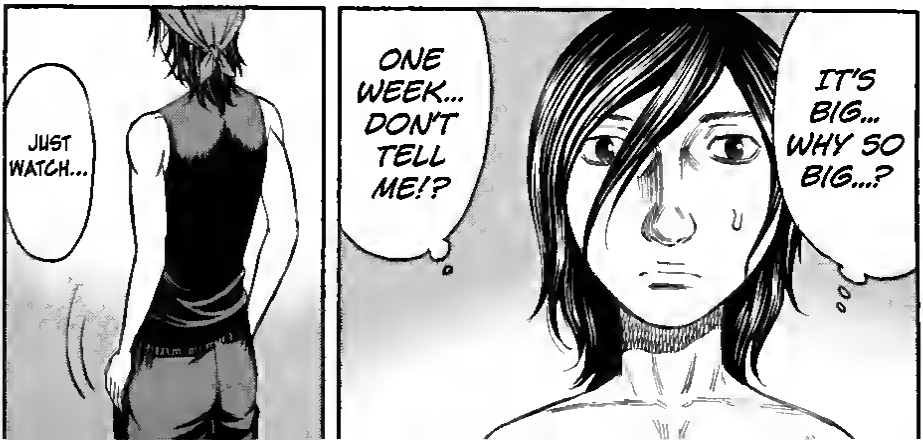
LOOK, THEY'RE ALREADY AT THE BEACH WORKING.
RYOU AND THEM ARE REALLY OBSESSED WITH THIS NOW. THAT'S ALSO A PROBLEM...
A PROB-LEM?

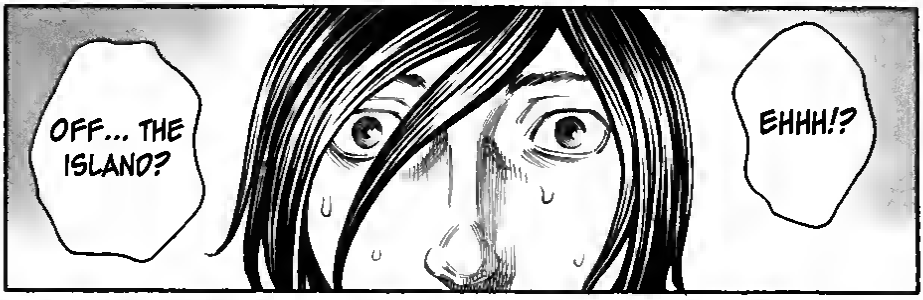
RYOU!
OH, SO YOU CAME OUT!

HUH?
EVERYONE'S NOT DOING IT ALL TO-GETHER?

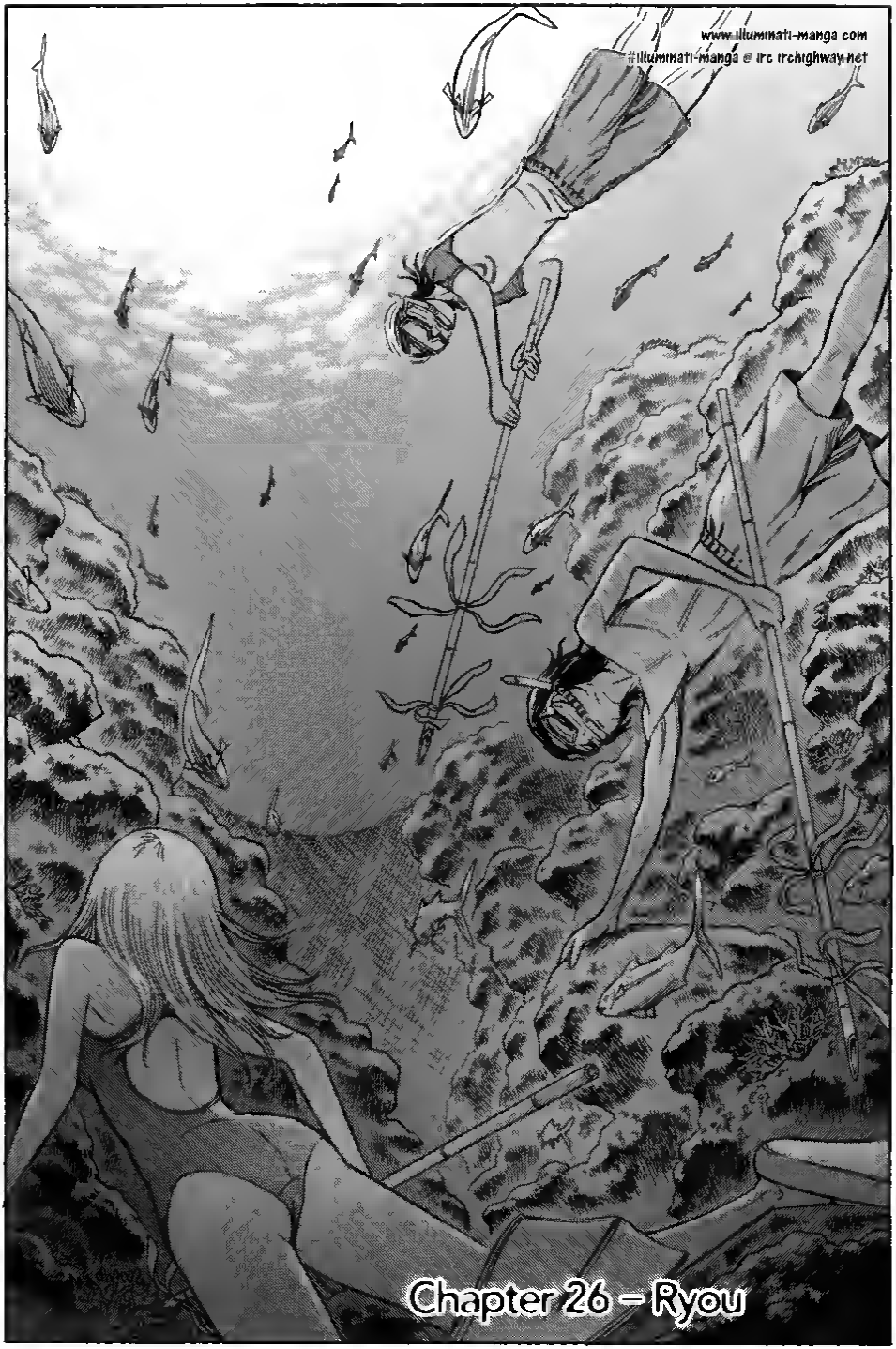
WELL?
HOW DOES OUR BOAT LOOK!?


WE'RE GOING TO PUT A MAST AND A SAIL ON IT.
LOTS OF PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO RIDE ON IT, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAIL FOR ABOUT A WEEK.


IT'S BIG... WHY SO BIG...?
ONE WEEK... DON'T TELL ME!?
JUST WATCH...



[Chapter 25 – Question and Answer / End]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Chapter 26 – Ryou

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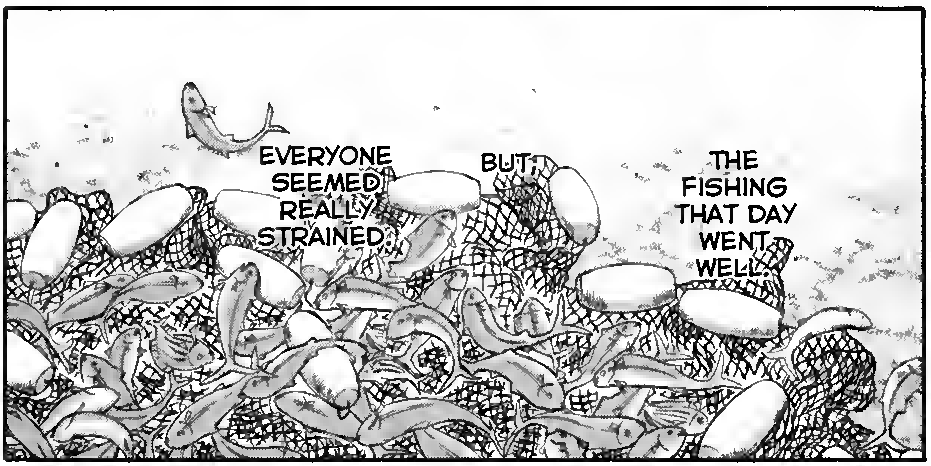
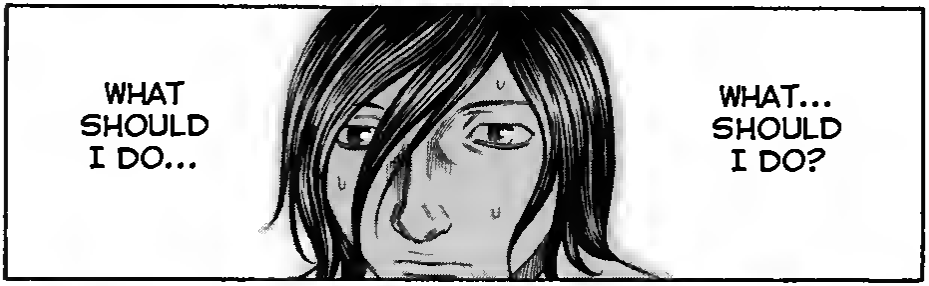
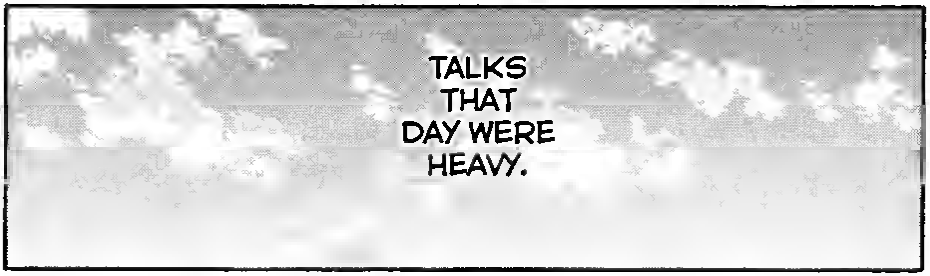

EVERYONE SEEMED REALLY STRAINED.
BUT
THE FISHING THAT DAY WENT WELL.

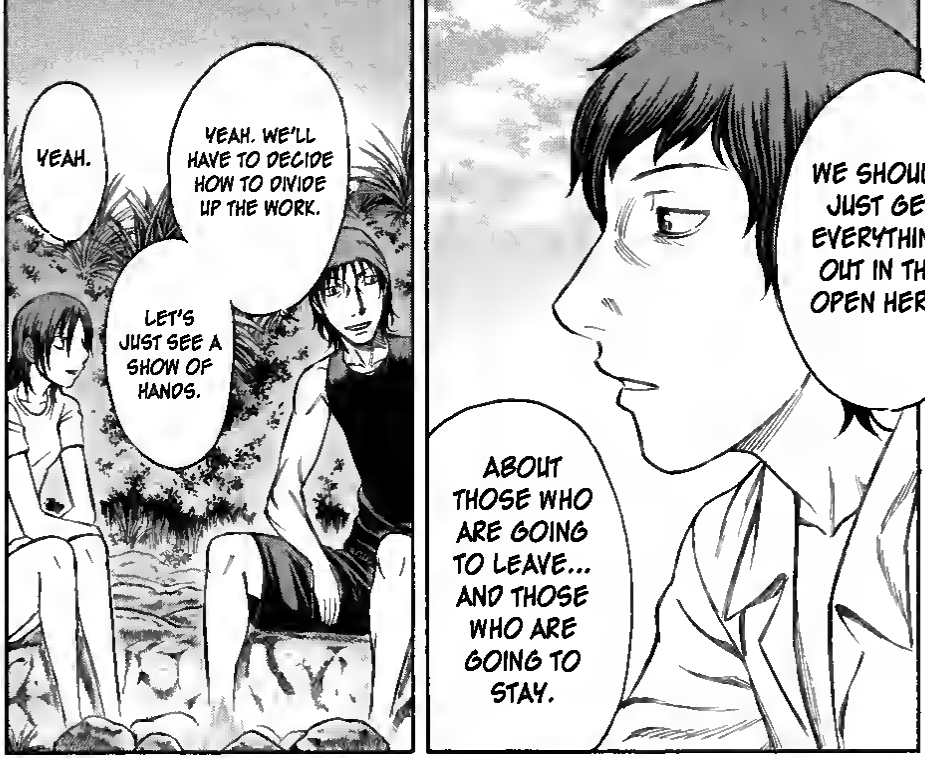
SILENT UNREST AND DISSATISFACTION HAS ENVELOPED THE REST OF US.
RYOU AND SOME OTHERS ARE TRYING TO LEAVE THE ISLAND.

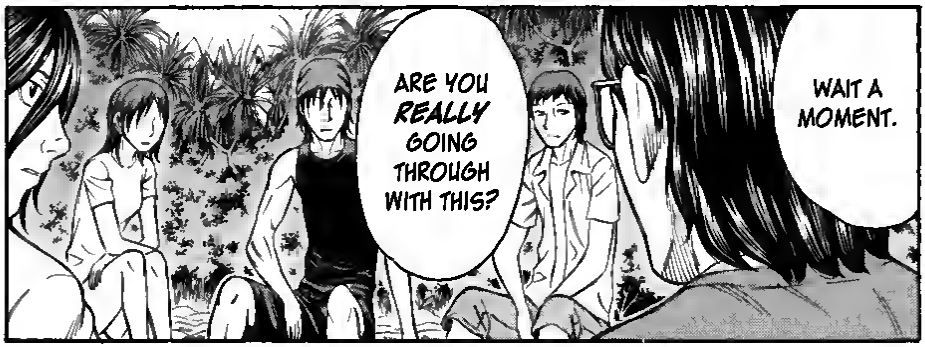
I COULDN'T IMAGINE WE'D HAVE THE FOOD AND SECURITY WE HAVE NOW WITHOUT HIS LEADERSHIP.
RIGHT NOW, RYOU IS THE LEADER WE NEED.


WHAT SHOULD I DO...
WHAT... SHOULD I DO?


TALKS THAT DAY WERE HEAVY.

I THINK—


WE SHOULD JUST GET EVERYTHING OUT IN THE OPEN HERE.
ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO LEAVE... AND THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO STAY.
YEAH.
YEAH. WE'LL HAVE TO DECIDE HOW TO DIVIDE UP THE WORK.
LET'S JUST SEE A SHOW OF HANDS.


WAIT A MOMENT.
ARE YOU *REALLY* GOING THROUGH WITH THIS?

YOU REMEMBER THE WORDS THAT WERE ON THAT SIGN, DON'T YOU? IF THE SURROUNDING WATERS WERE TO BE INVADED...
"WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR LIVES." IN OTHER WORDS—

DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU'LL BE KILLED?
NO, IT'S POSSIBLE.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT EX-TREME...?
HA... HAHAHA, NO WAY...
.....
THEN THEY WILL DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO KEEP IT FROM DOING SO.
IF KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ISLAND WAS MADE PUBLIC, IT WOULD BE BAD FOR THE "NATION."
AND IF THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MUST ABSOLUTELY NOT BE REVEALED TO THE PUBLIC—

!
BUT I WON'T FORCE ANYONE ELSE TO.
I'M LEAVING THIS ISLAND, NO MATTER WHAT.
...I COULDN'T CARE LESS... ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT.

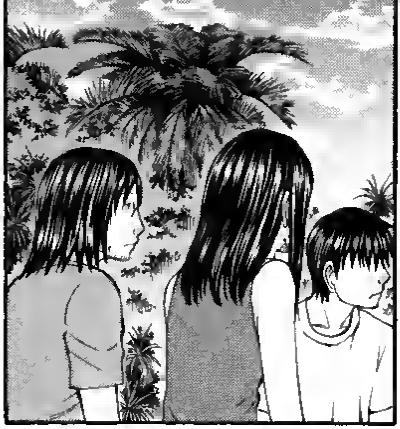
DECIDE YOUR OWN ACTIONS BY YOUR OWN JUDGMENT.
NO ONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYONE ELSE.

WELL THEN, LET'S SEE A SHOW OF HANDS.
I DON'T THINK THAT'LL HAPPEN, THOUGH.
YEAH.
EVEN IF THEY GET KILLED AS A RESULT?

THOSE WHO ARE GOING—

SURPRISINGLY, NOT MANY HANDS WERE RAISED.

I THOUGHT YOU'D COME, THOUGH.
YOU EVEN HELPED OUT BUILDING THE RAFT.
フン
I JUST THOUGHT IT'D DO WELL TO LEARN A BIT
FOR LATER.
BESIDES, I CAN'T GO BACK THERE.



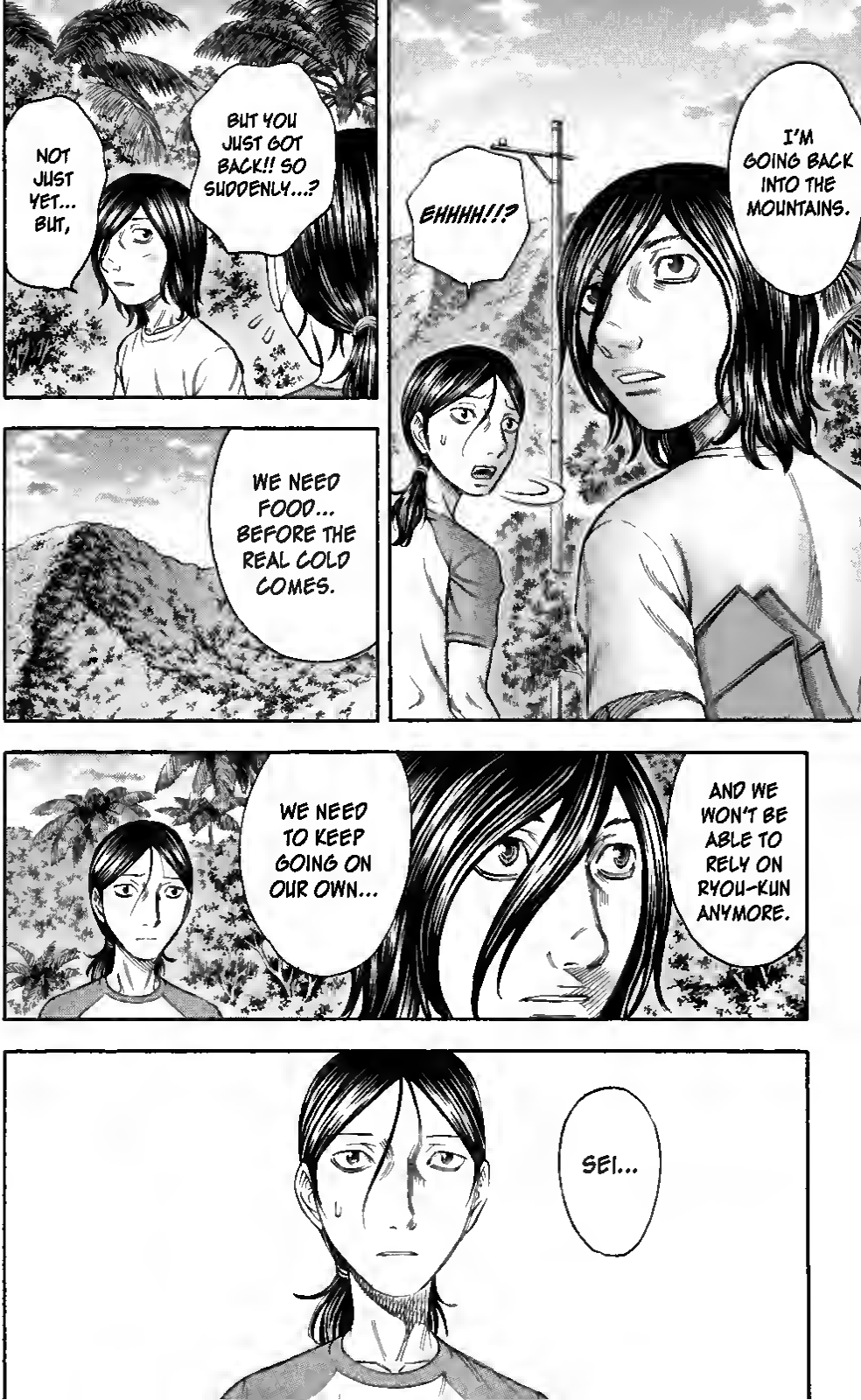
.....

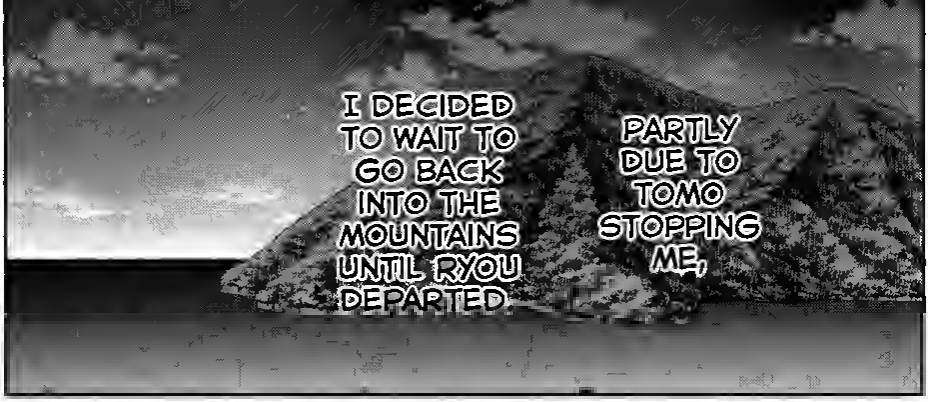
THE REASON I ATTEMPTED SUICIDE...
IS AN ECONOMIC ONE.

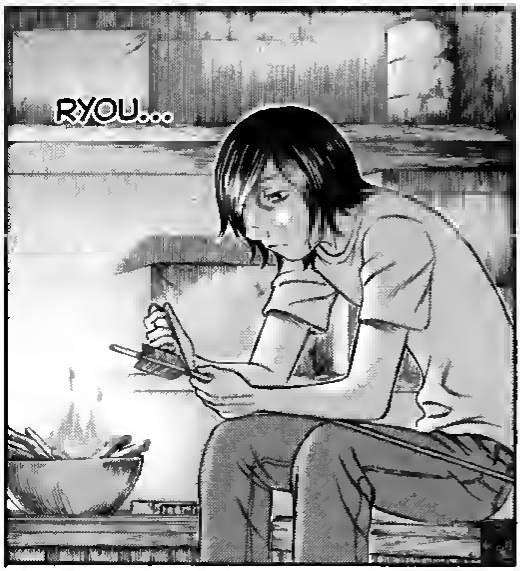
THE COMPARATIVELY, NORMAL... HEALTHY-LOOKING PEOPLE MOST LIKELY TRIED TO OFF THEMSELVES FOR THOSE KIND OF REASONS, I BET?
ALTHOUGH... YOU CAN UNDERSTAND A LITTLE JUST BY LOOKING AT OUR "FRIENDS."

I GET IT... PEOPLE REALLY DO HAVE A LOT OF REASONS.
BUT FOR ME, I HAVE NO "BURDENS" HERE.

I JUST WANT TO DECIDE WHERE I DIE ON MY OWN.
NOTHING... REALLY.
WHAT'S WAITING FOR YOU OVER THERE?
BUT TO THINK YOU'D WANT TO RETURN SO BADLY...
I CAN'T... RELY ON RYOU OR OTHER PEOPLE ANYMORE.
YEAH...
THE WATER KEEPS GETTING COLDER AND COLDER...
I WONDER WHAT'LL HAPPEN.


NOT JUST YET... BUT,
BUT YOU JUST GOT BACK!! SO SUDDENLY...?
EHHHH!!?
I'M GOING BACK INTO THE MOUNTAINS.
WE NEED FOOD... BEFORE THE REAL COLD COMES.
WE NEED TO KEEP GOING ON OUR OWN...
AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RELY ON RYOU-KUN ANYMORE.
SEI...


I DECIDED TO WAIT TO GO BACK INTO THE MOUNTAINS UNTIL RYOU DEPARTED
PARTLY DUE TO TOMO STOPPING ME,


RYOU...

カタ

WILL YOU REALLY BE ABLE TO... SAFELY LEAVE THIS ISLAND...?

AH... SEI!
I SHOULD GO ASK HIM WHEN HE'S GOING TO LEAVE.
IF IT'S GOING TO BE A WEEK OR SO, I'D LIKE TO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS DURING THAT TIME...
RYOU? I THINK HE'S STILL AT THE RAFT...
HE'S BEEN WORKING ON IT UNTIL REALLY LATE THESE DAYS.
WORKING ON IT UNTIL THIS LATE, ALL BY HIMSELF?
!

IT... WAIT!
...RY...
RY...

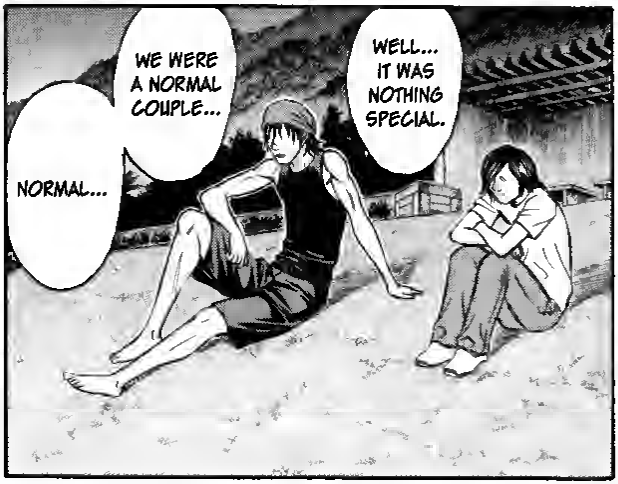
WAIT FOR ME... ERI...!!
I'LL BE BACK SOON... OKAY? WAIT...

WHO IS IT!?
!
E...RI...?

I-I WAS W-WON-DERING WHEN YOU'D BE... LEAVING.
U-U-UMM, ER, THE I-ISLAND... RYOU-KUN... UMM,
...SEI...
YOU OVERHEARD ME...
.....
UMM...
I-I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS SOON... SO...
SORRY...
.....
I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE...
AH, FINE, FINE.
AHHH, NO... UH, I...

OH...
SEI, DID YOU
.....
フル フル
HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
I...
DID... OVER THERE.

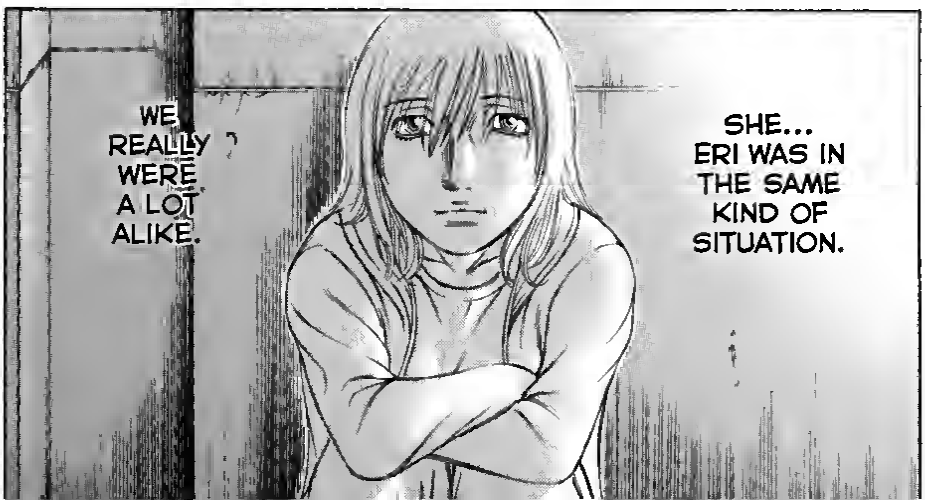
.....


WE WERE A NORMAL COUPLE...
NORMAL...
WELL... IT WAS NOTHING SPECIAL.

WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
BUT,

WE WERE BOTH LONELY PEOPLE.
MEETING ON THE STREET AT NIGHT.
ALWAYS TOGETHER.

WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MY MOTHER REMARRIED... YOU KNOW, YOU HEAR THIS KINDA STORY ALL THE TIME.
I DIDN'T GET ALONG VERY WELL WITH HER NEW HUSBAND, SO I RARELY WENT TO SCHOOL, AND OFTEN JUST WANDERED AROUND TOWN.


SHE... ERI WAS IN THE SAME KIND OF SITUATION.
WE REALLY WERE A LOT ALIKE.

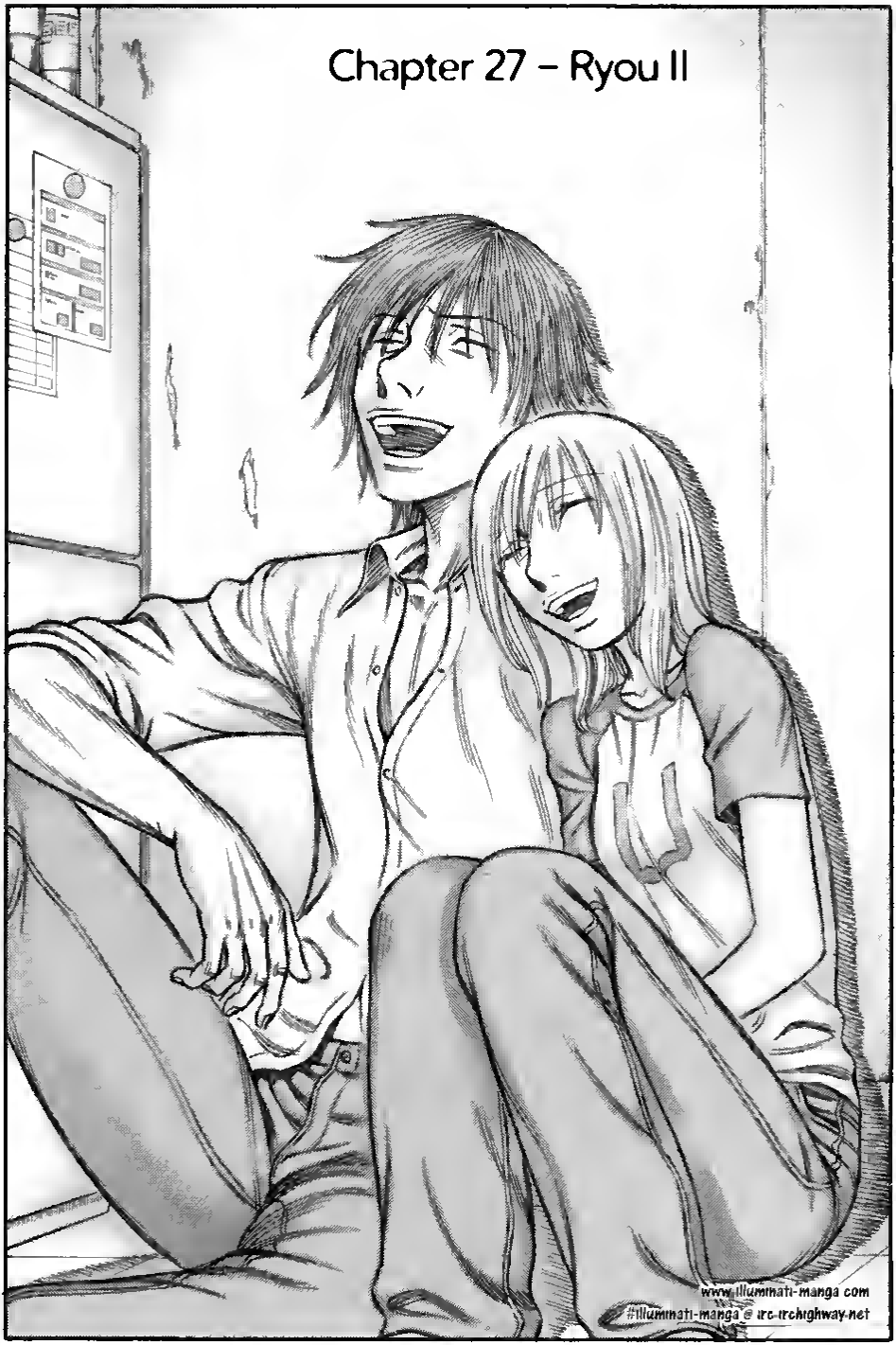
ERI HATED BEING ALONE, AND ALWAYS CAME WITH ME EVERYWHERE.
BUT THE ONE WHO REALLY WANTED THAT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN ME...
WE BOTH GOT PART-TIME JOBS AND THEN ROLLED INTO SOME CHEAP APARTMENT...
IT SOUNDS WEIRD, THOUGH.
BUT THEN WE FINALLY... WERE ABLE TO RELAX.
WE NEVER HAD MONEY, AND THINGS WERE ALWAYS SO TOUGH, WE NEVER REALLY HAD ANY AMAZING TIMES WORTH MENTIONING.
IT WAS COMMON-PLACE... BUT,
THE HOLLOW FEELING FROM WHEN I WANDERED AROUND ALONE...
WAS GONE.
I THINK WE LIVED TOGETHER FOR THREE YEARS...
AND THEN...
ク" ク"
AND... THEN...

I HAD A LITTLE EXTRA MONEY FOR ONCE, SO WE DECIDED TO GO OUT TO A RESTAURANT...
I'VE RECALLED IT SO MUCH, YET I ALWAYS FORGET.
I THINK THAT'S WHEN IT HAP-PENED... DAMMIT!

YEAH... THE USUAL.
SAYING THE HELMET DIDN'T FIT RIGHT, OR THAT HER HAIR WAS MESSED UP, OR SOMETHING.
SHE WAS ALWAYS LATE AT GETTING READY.

AND THEN INSTANTLY.

THE FACT THAT I HAD HER RIDE ON MY BIKE?
MY LUCK?
WHAT WENT WRONG?
THE FACT THAT WE BOTH MET?
THE HELMET THAT DIDN'T FIT RIGHT?
THE DRIVER WHO FELL ASLEEP?
AND THEN WHAT?
AND THEN?
WE BOTH
BECAME ALONE AGAIN.
[Chapter 26 – Ryou / End]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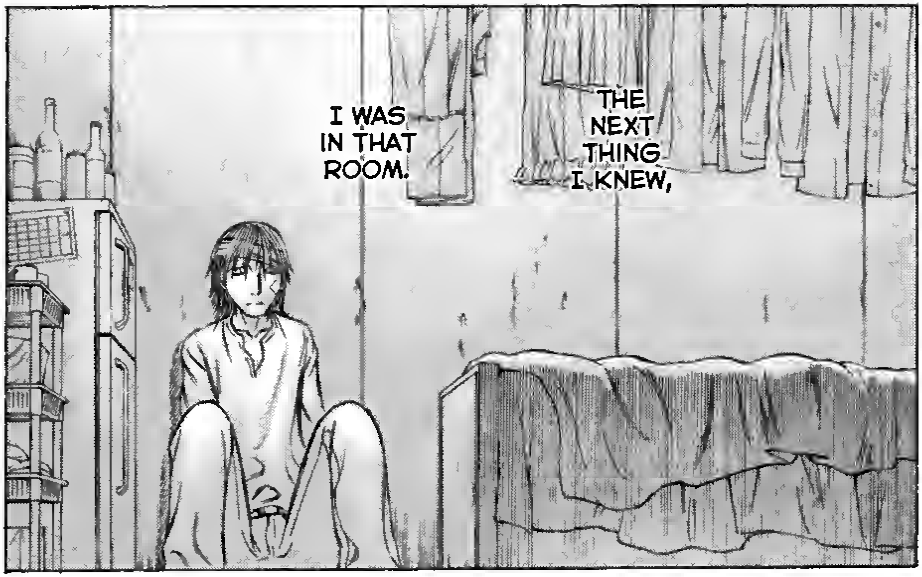
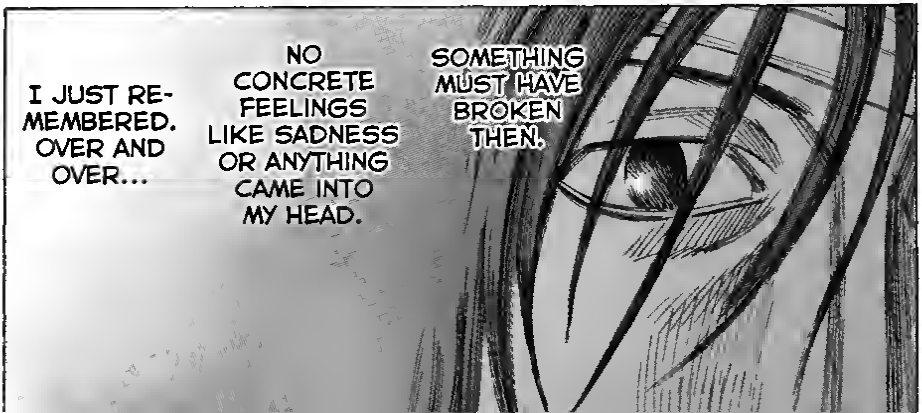
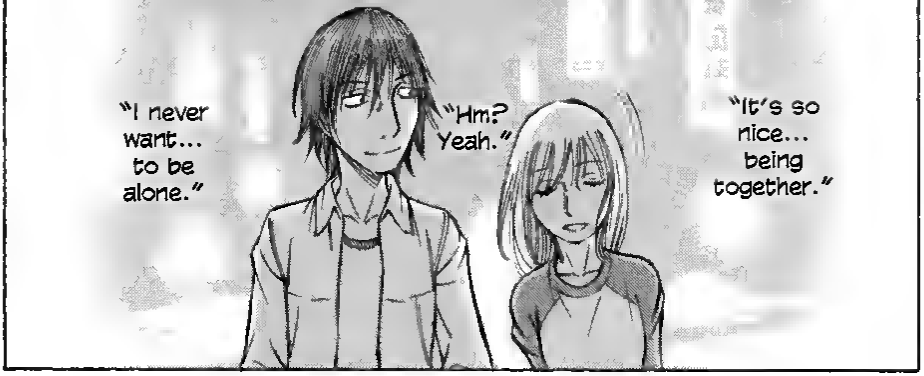
E...
ERI...!

AND STRANGELY ENOUGH, I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER A THING.
AFTER THAT CAME—
THE HOSPITAL... AND THEN THE FUNERAL.

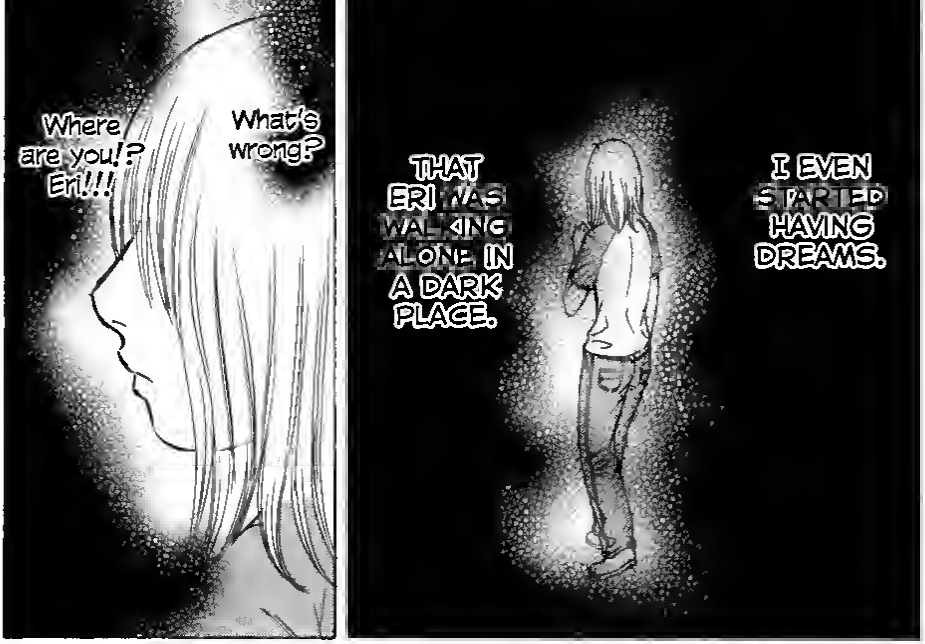

I WAS IN THAT ROOM.
THE NEXT THING I KNEW,


I JUST REMEMBERED. OVER AND OVER...
NO CONCRETE FEELINGS LIKE SADNESS OR ANYTHING CAME INTO MY HEAD.
SOMETHING MUST HAVE BROKEN THEN.


"I never want... to be alone."
"Hm? Yeah."
"It's so nice... being together."

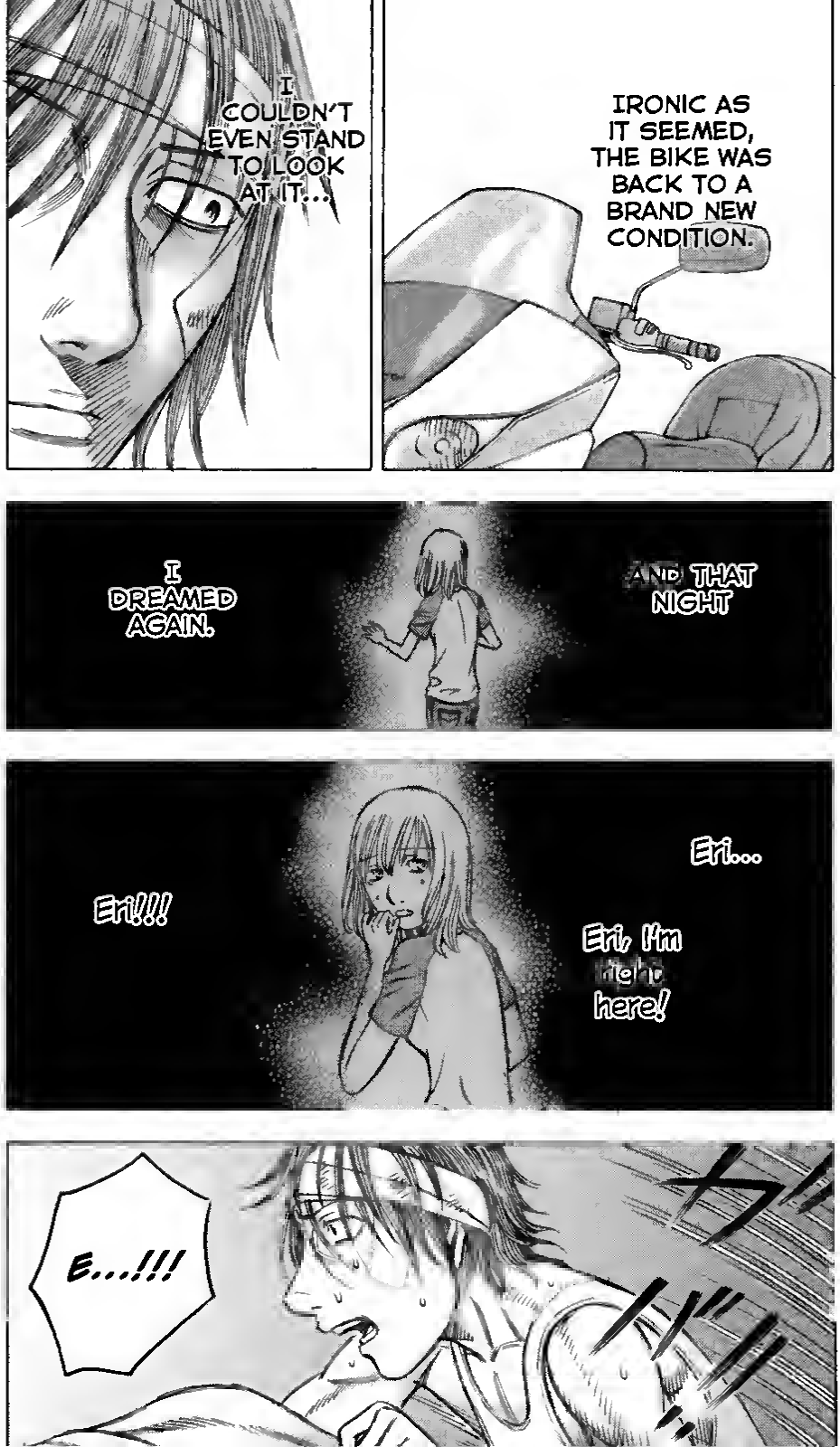
"leave me alone..."
"Ryou... don't ever..."

ERI BROUGHT UP THAT TOPIC SO MANY TIMES...
AND,
WITHIN OUR ORDINARY CONVERSATION,
"I won't!"
"You're the one who'd better not cheat on me!"


Where are you!? Eri!!!
What's wrong?
THAT ERI WAS WALKING ALONE IN A DARK PLACE.
I EVEN STARTED HAVING DREAMS.

I STOPPED LEAVING MY ROOM.
THE DREAMS CONTINUED DAILY.

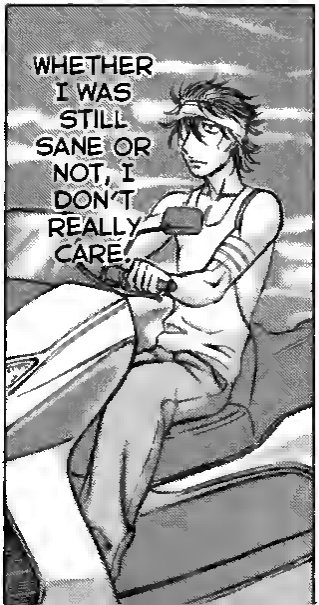
HE SAID INSURANCE COVERED THE REPAIRS.
A FRIEND FROM WORK WHO WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME BROUGHT ME MY BIKE.

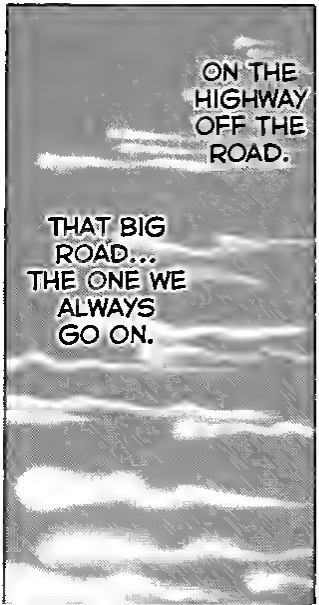

I COULDN'T EVEN STAND TO LOOK AT IT...
IRONIC AS IT SEEMED, THE BIKE WAS BACK TO A BRAND NEW CONDITION.
I DREAMED AGAIN.
AND THAT NIGHT
Eri!!!
Eri...
Eri, I'm here!
E...!!!

SHE'S ALL ALONE
AGAIN.

IT'S OBVIOUS.
WHERE?

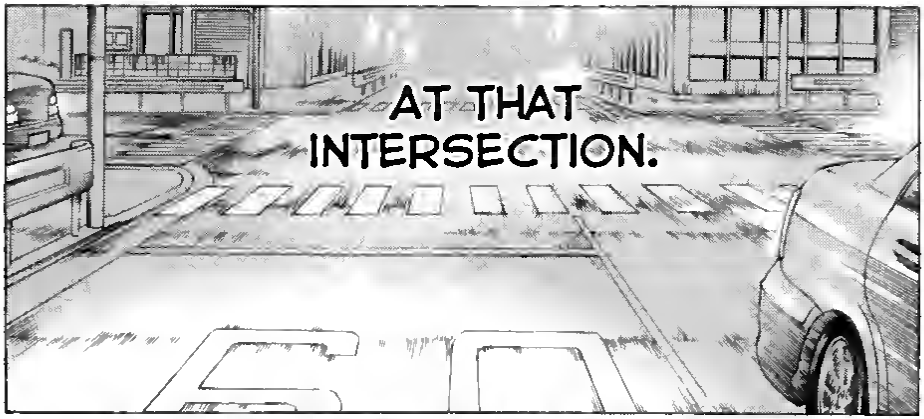
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT ONE THING.


WHETHER I WAS STILL SANE OR NOT, I DON'T REALLY CARE.

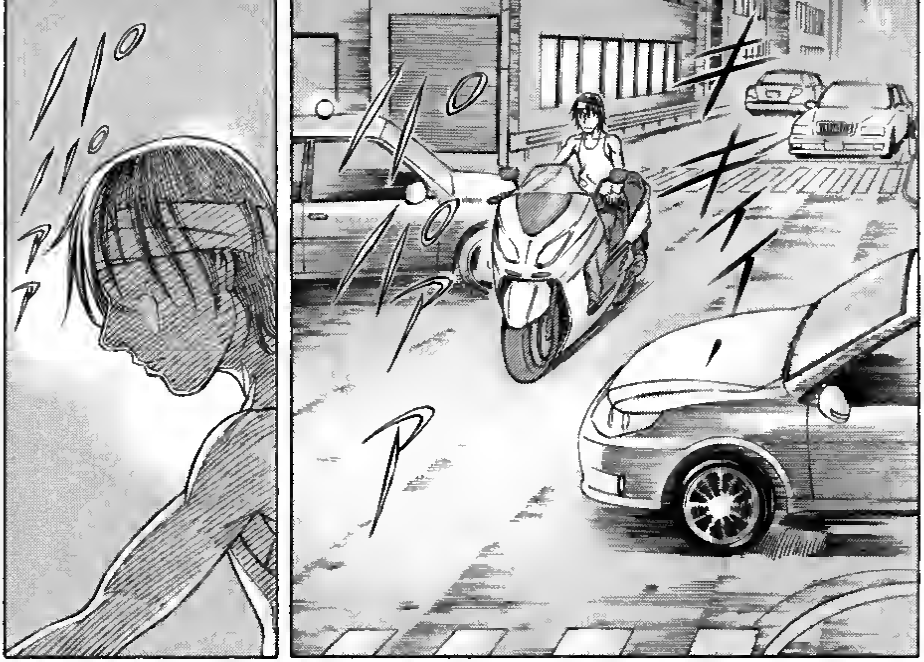

ON THE HIGHWAY OFF THE ROAD.
THAT BIG ROAD... THE ONE WE ALWAYS GO ON.

I HAVE TO GO THERE.
I LEFT ERI THERE.

AT THAT SPOT.
SHE MUST BE WAITING.


AT THAT INTERSECTION.

?!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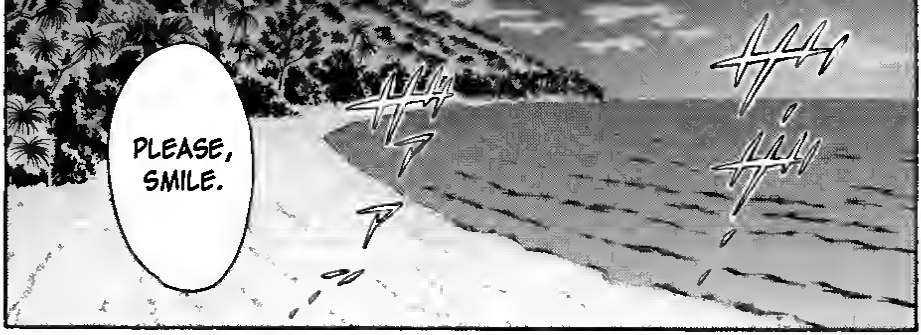
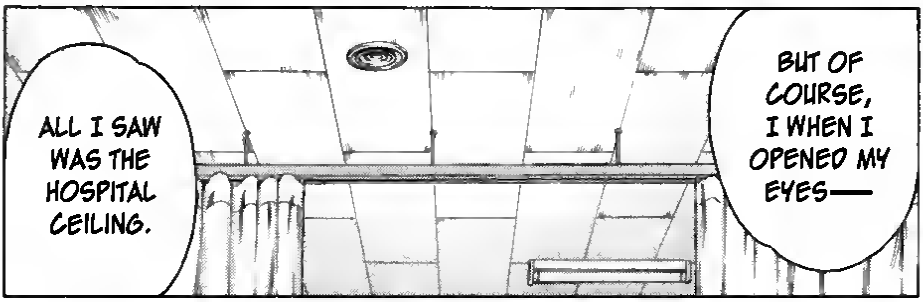
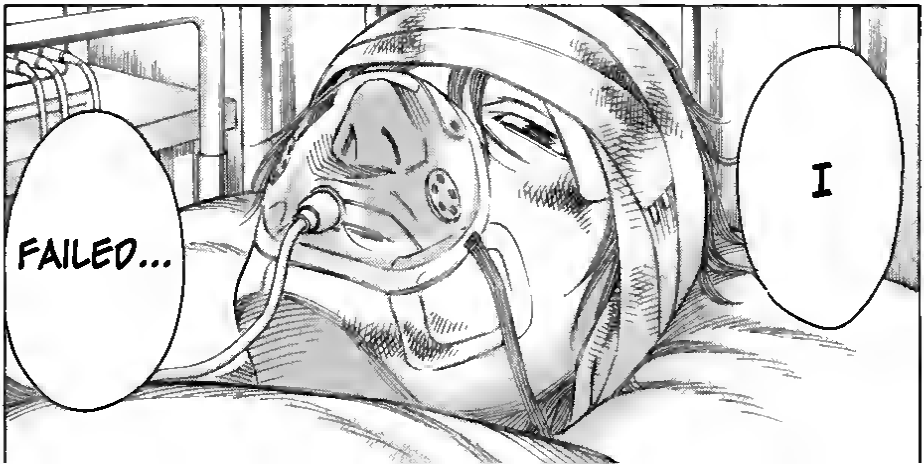
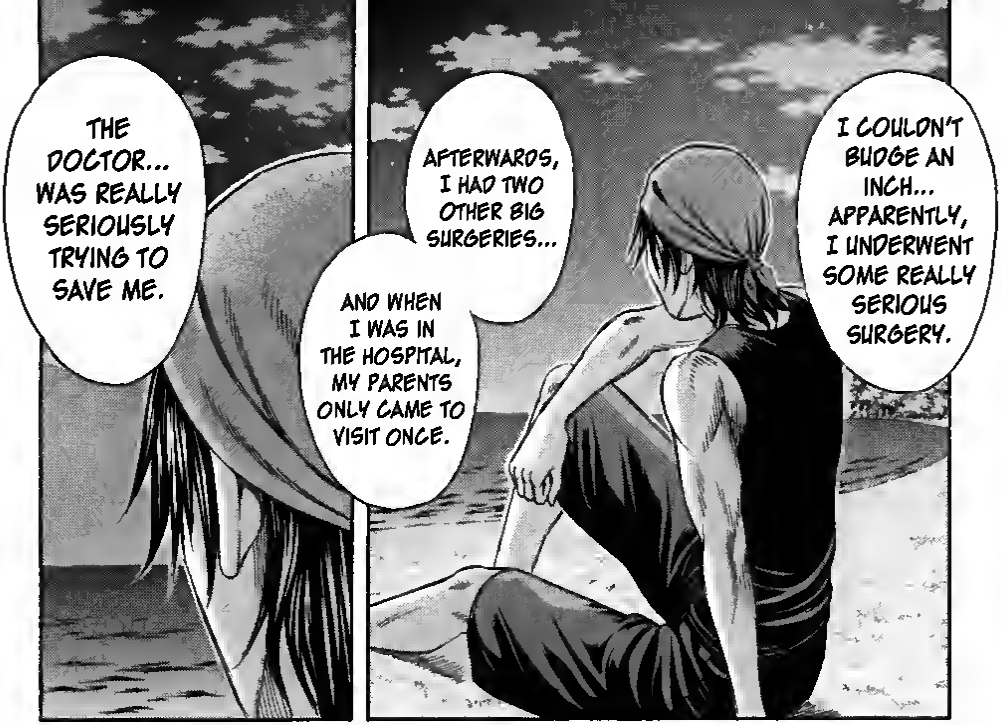

PLEASE, SMILE.

FOR SOME REASON... I THOUGHT I'D SEE ERI.
WHEN I OPENED MY EYES——


ALL I SAW WAS THE HOSPITAL CEILING.
BUT OF COURSE, I WHEN I OPENED MY EYES——


FAILED...
I


I COULDN'T BUDGE AN INCH... APPARENTLY, I UNDERWENT SOME REALLY SERIOUS SURGERY.
AFTERWARDS, I HAD TWO OTHER BIG SURGERIES...
AND WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL, MY PARENTS ONLY CAME TO VISIT ONCE.
THE DOCTOR... WAS REALLY SERIOUSLY TRYING TO SAVE ME.

THE STAFF ALSO WORKED REALLY HARD AT MY REHABILITATION...
CHEERING ME ON EVERY DAY.
MY HEART AND BODY GRADUALLY RECOVERED... AND THEN,

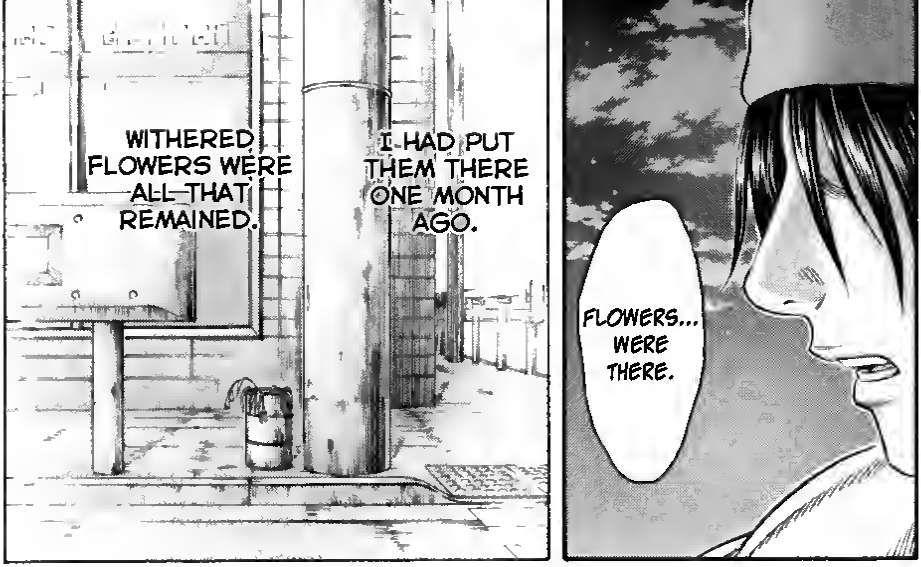
I THOUGHT ABOUT FORGETTING... ABOUT GIVING UP ON ERI.
.....

I COULD MOVE MY BODY AGAIN, SO I RETURNED TO MY PART-TIME JOB.
FINALLY—
THEN, ONE DAY WHEN I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO REALLY SETTLE DOWN,

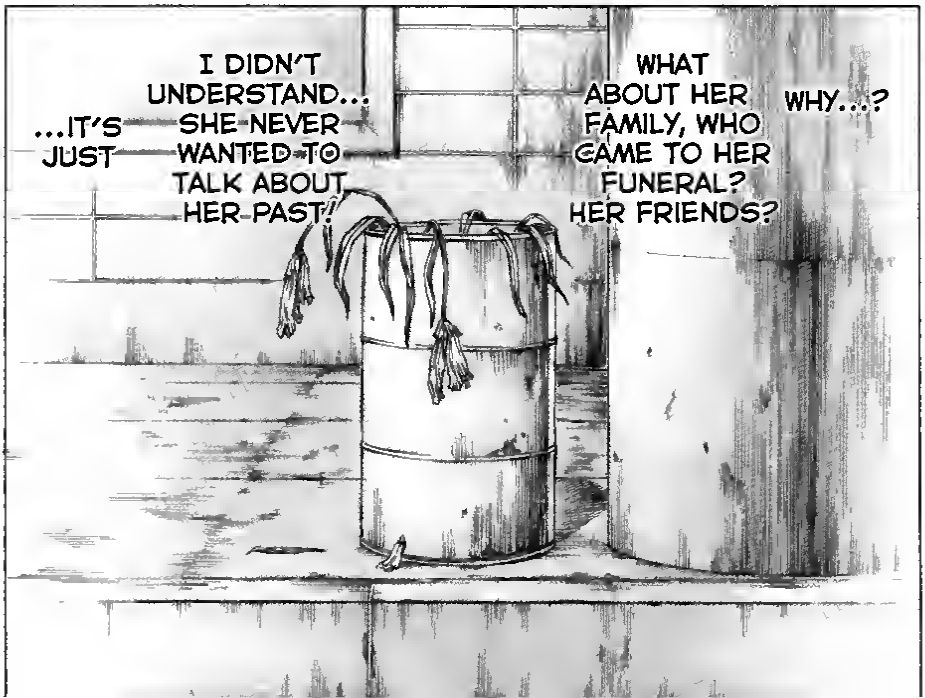
A BAG OF CANDY FELL OFF THE SHELF.
AND I REMEMBERED INSTANTLY.

SO I TOOK THAT WITH ME
TO THE INTERSECTION I HAD ONLY BEEN TO ONCE SINCE I LEFT THE HOSPITAL, THE INTERSECTION I HAD AVOIDED.

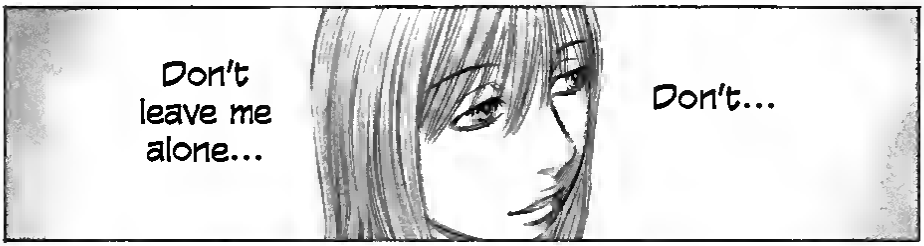
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I REMEMBER HER ALWAYS HOLDING THIS...

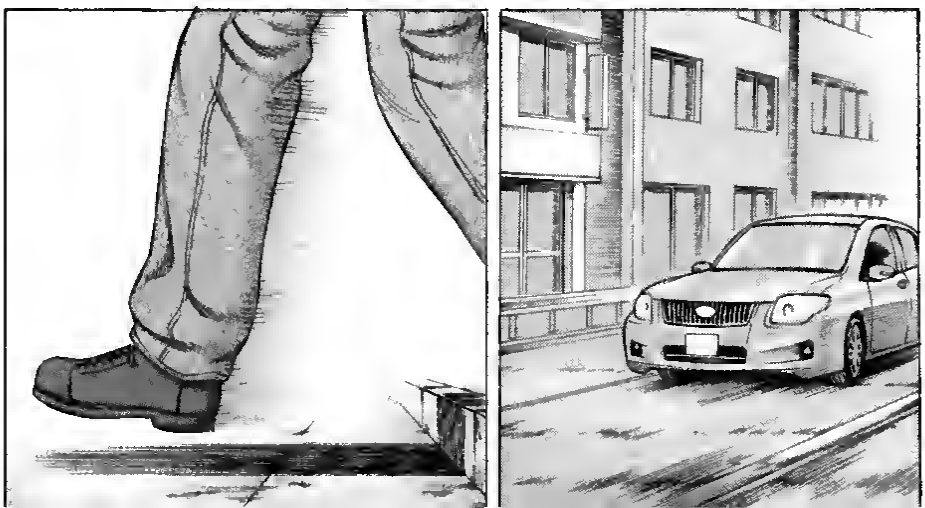

WITHERED FLOWERS WERE ALL THAT REMAINED.
I HAD PUT THEM THERE ONE MONTH AGO.
FLOWERS... WERE THERE.

WHO HAD COME HERE.
I WAS THE ONLY PERSON


...IT'S JUST
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND... SHE NEVER WANTED TO TALK ABOUT HER PAST!
WHAT ABOUT HER FAMILY, WHO CAME TO HER FUNERAL? HER FRIENDS?
WHY...?

JUST ME.
I WAS
EVERYTHING.
I WAS
ALL SHE
HAD...

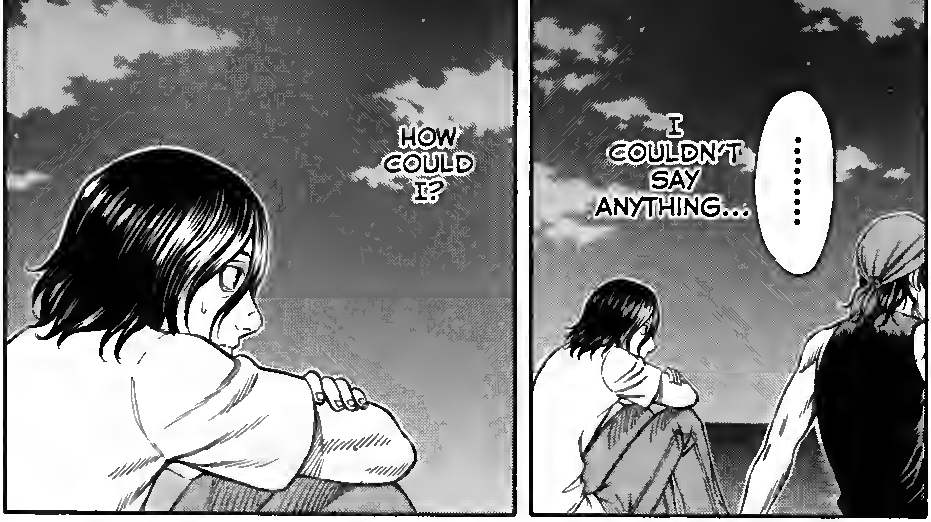

Don't
leave me
alone...
Don't...

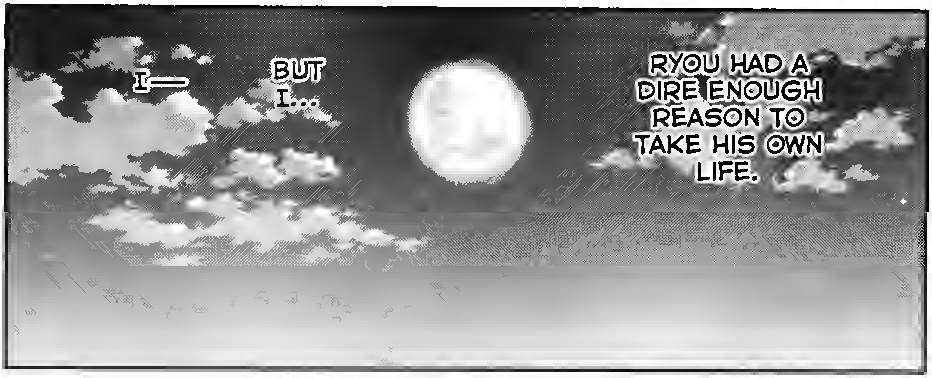


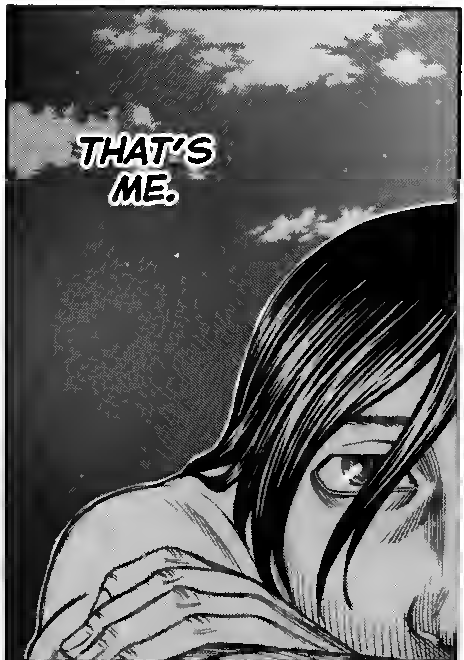
yet I made you wait so long...
We were together the whole time,
Eri... I'm sorry.

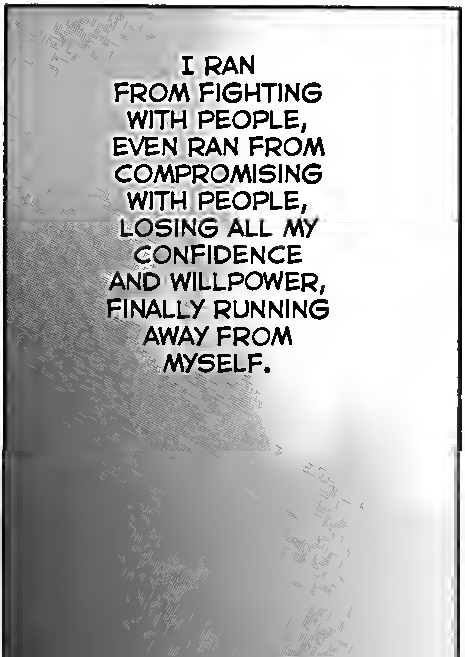
It's alright.
But-it's alright... now.

I SHOULD HAVE DIED THERE...!!
THERE...
BUT... NOT ONLY DID I NOT DIE THIS TIME, I DIDN'T EVEN GET ANY MAJOR INJURIES.
IT WAS SO STUPID.


HOW COULD I?
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING...
.....

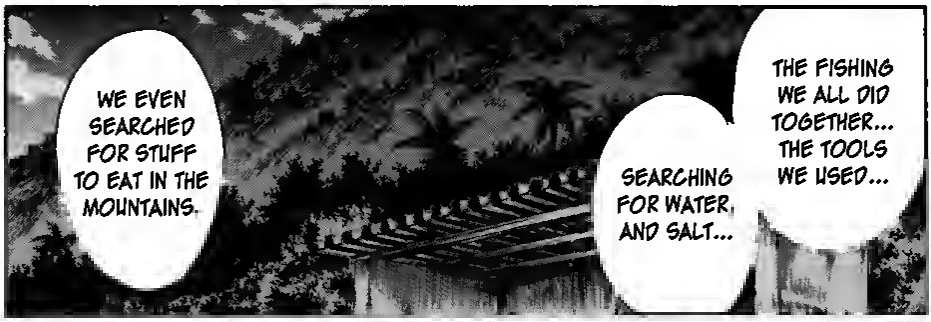

I—
BUT I...
RYOU HAD A DIRE ENOUGH REASON TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE.


THAT'S ME.

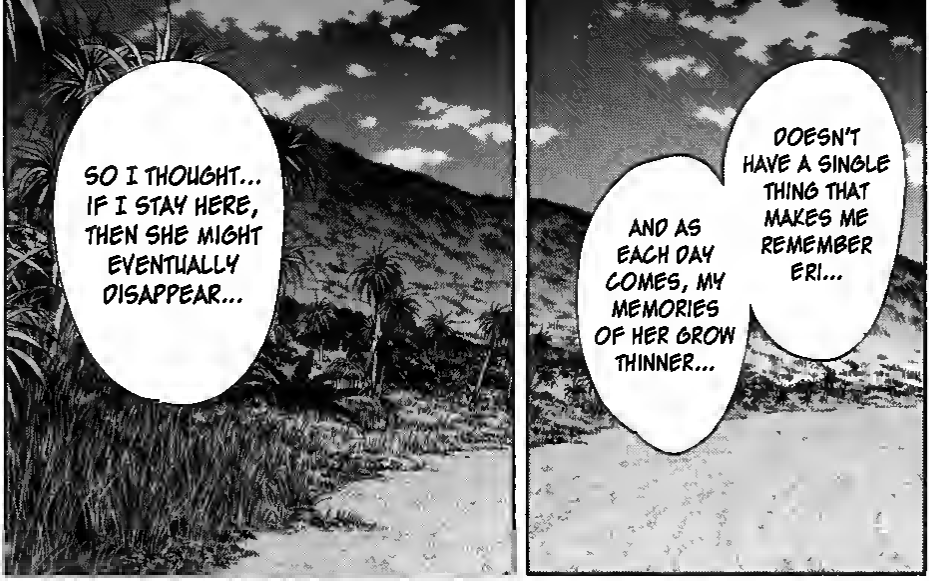

I RAN FROM FIGHTING WITH PEOPLE, EVEN RAN FROM COMPROMISING WITH PEOPLE, LOSING ALL MY CONFIDENCE AND WILLPOWER, FINALLY RUNNING AWAY FROM MYSELF.

I WAS MOVED. AND...
IT TASTED GOOD, TOO...

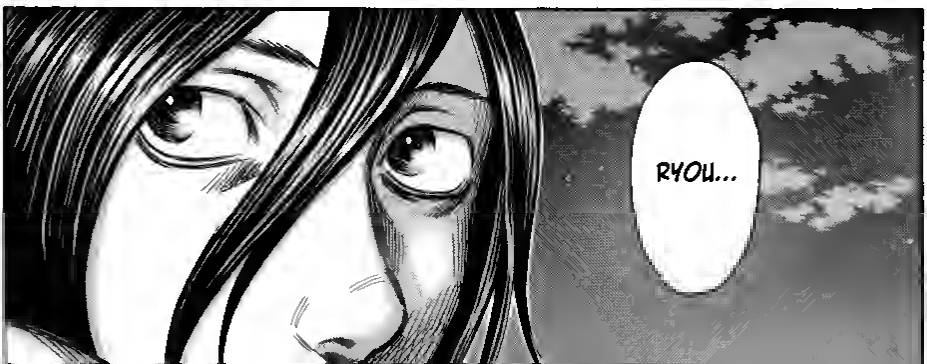
I WAS SHOCKED... BY THE DEER YOU BROUGHT!
!

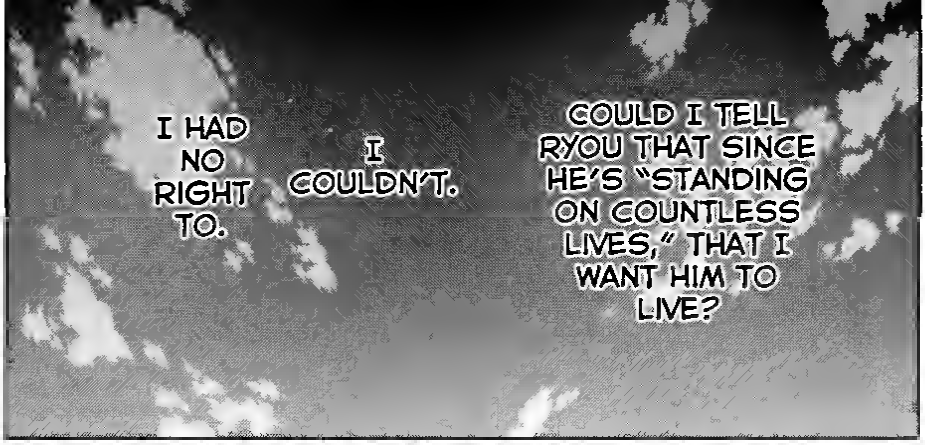

WE EVEN SEARCHED FOR STUFF TO EAT IN THE MOUNTAINS.
SEARCHING FOR WATER, AND SALT...
THE FISHING WE ALL DID TOGETHER... THE TOOLS WE USED...

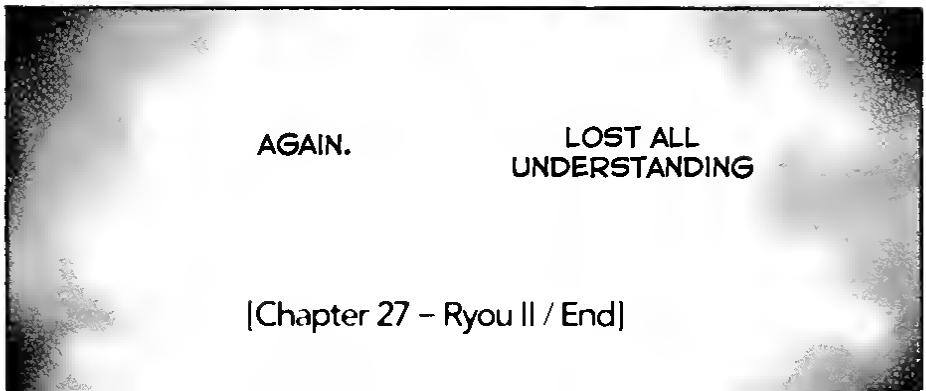
THIS PLACE—
AND OF ALL THINGS, I'VE EVEN BECOME ABLE TO FEEL THE COMPLETENESS OF LIVING.
EVER SINCE COMING HERE, I'VE NO LONGER FELT THE SADNESS
OR HOLLOWNESS I FELT IN MY TEEN YEARS.


SO I THOUGHT... IF I STAY HERE, THEN SHE MIGHT EVENTUALLY DISAPPEAR...
AND AS EACH DAY COMES, MY MEMORIES OF HER GROW THINNER...
DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE THING THAT MAKES ME REMEMBER ERI...

TO THAT PLACE...
I NEED TO GO BACK...!


RYOU...





[Chapter 27 – Ryou II / End]

Chapter 28 – Departure
HEY... I'M SORRY.
EH? ...IT'S ALRIGHT.
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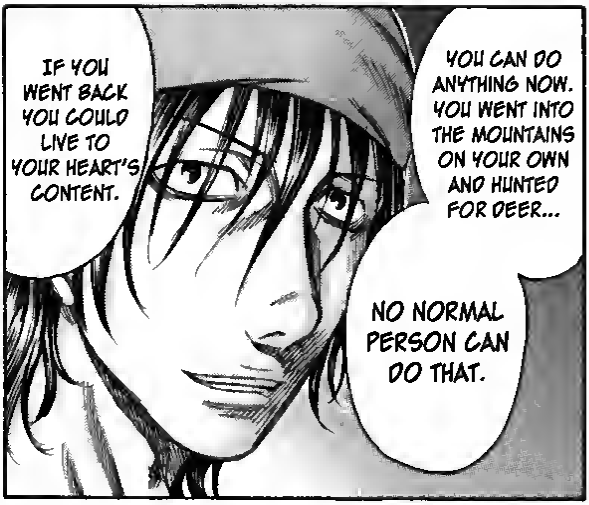
EHH!?
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME WITH ME?

.....
THANKS.


IF YOU WENT BACK YOU COULD LIVE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING NOW. YOU WENT INTO THE MOUNTAINS ON YOUR OWN AND HUNTED FOR DEER...
NO NORMAL PERSON CAN DO THAT.

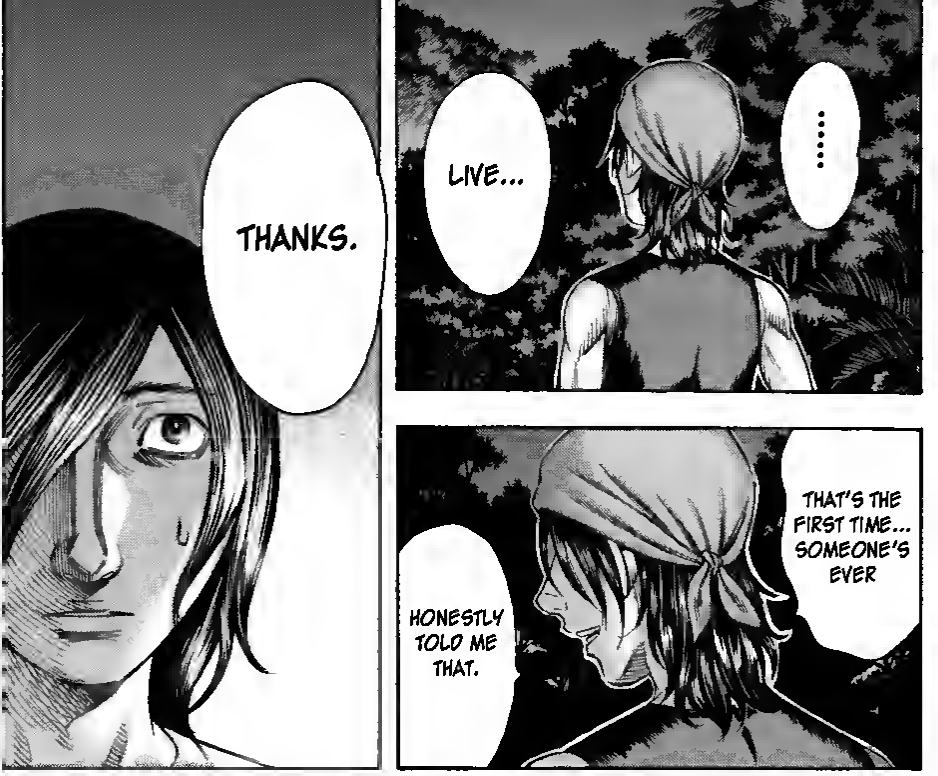
SOMETHING I'M ON THE VERGE OF UNDERSTANDING.
BUT I WANT TO TRY LIVING ON THIS ISLAND.
HERE, THERE'S SOMETHING...

AS I FACE THE ACT OF LIVING ON THIS ISLAND...
IT'S TRUE THAT I'VE STARTED TO CHANGE, AND I'VE STARTED TO UNDERSTAND THINGS...
WHAT?
...YEAH.
THAT'S THE QUES-TION...
SO IF I WERE TO STAY HERE...
THEN MAYBE I, TOO...
!
RYOU...
NO, FORGET IT!
!!
RYOU!!

DO YOU INTEND... TO DIE?
IF YOU... WERE TO MAKE IT BACK...! THEN...

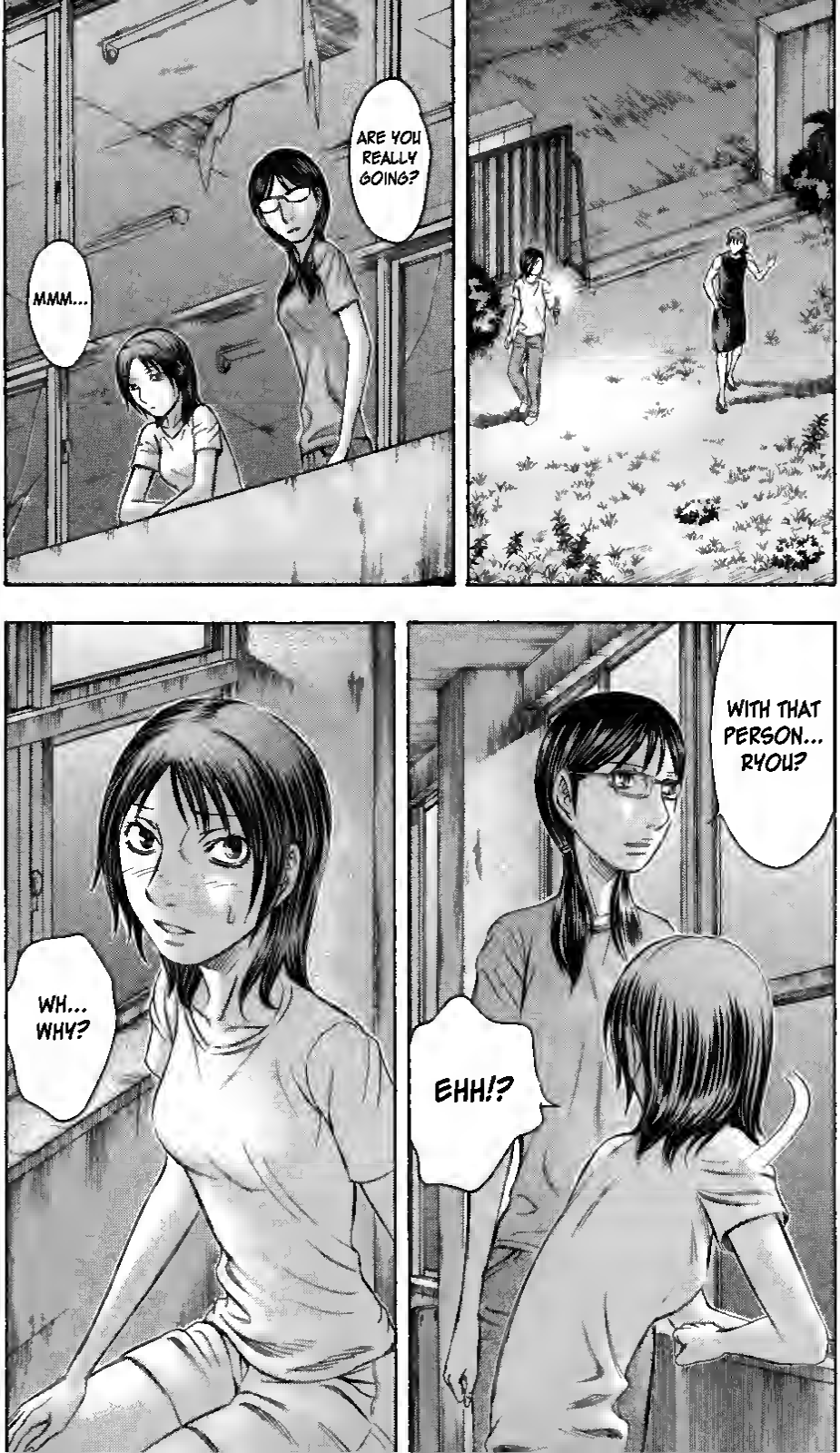
NO MATTER... WHAT WAY IT ENDS UP BEING IN, I—
I DON'T HAVE... THE RIGHT... TO SAY THIS... BUT...!

I WANT YOU TO LIVE!
W-WANT YOU... RYOU...

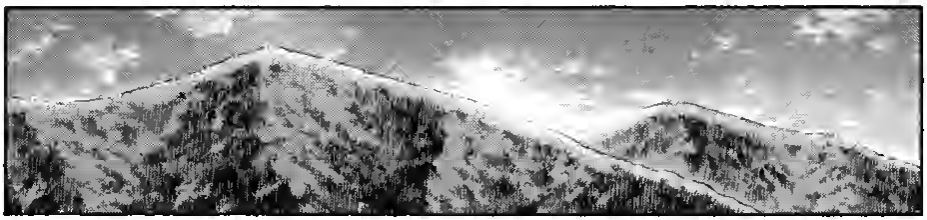

THANKS.
LIVE...
.....
HONESTLY TOLD ME THAT.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME... SOMEONE'S EVER

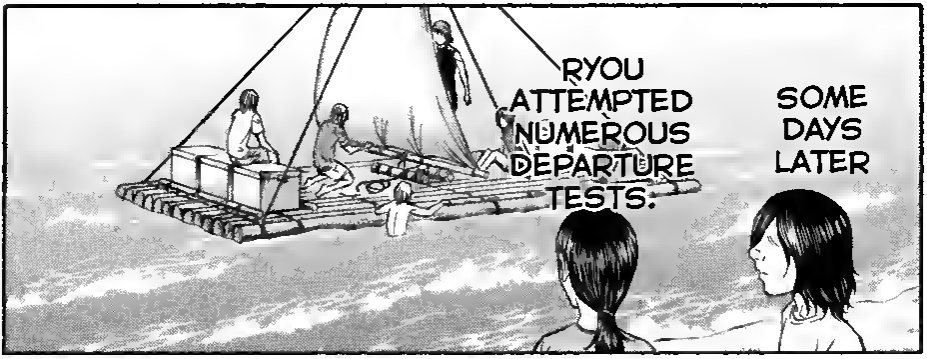
I'M GLAD I MET YOU.
SEI.

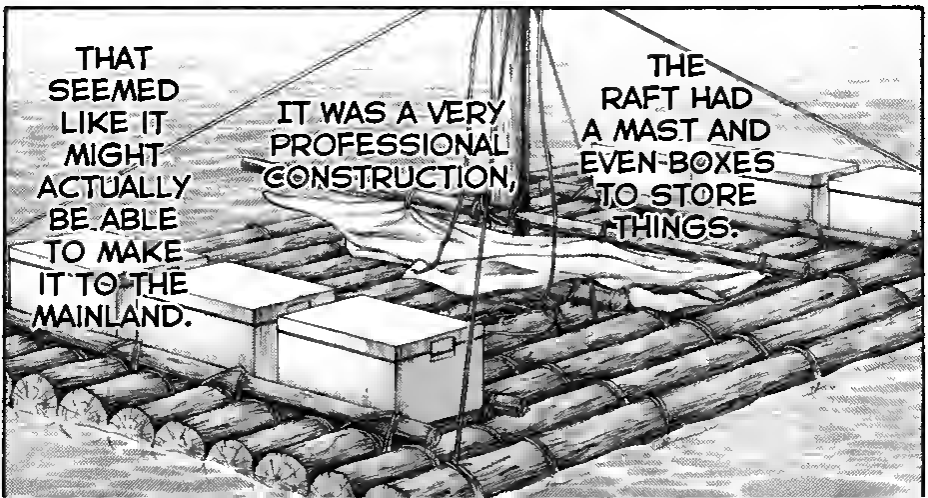
IT'S LATE.
LET'S GO.
I FEEL THE SAME.
THEN I...
OR A FRIEND TO TALK TO LIKE TOMO
IF I HAD HAD A SENPAI LIKE RYOU
WHEN WILL I STOP?
I'M THINKING ABOUT IFS AGAIN.
RYOU DIDN'T ANSWER THAT HE WOULD "LIVE," TO THE VERY END.

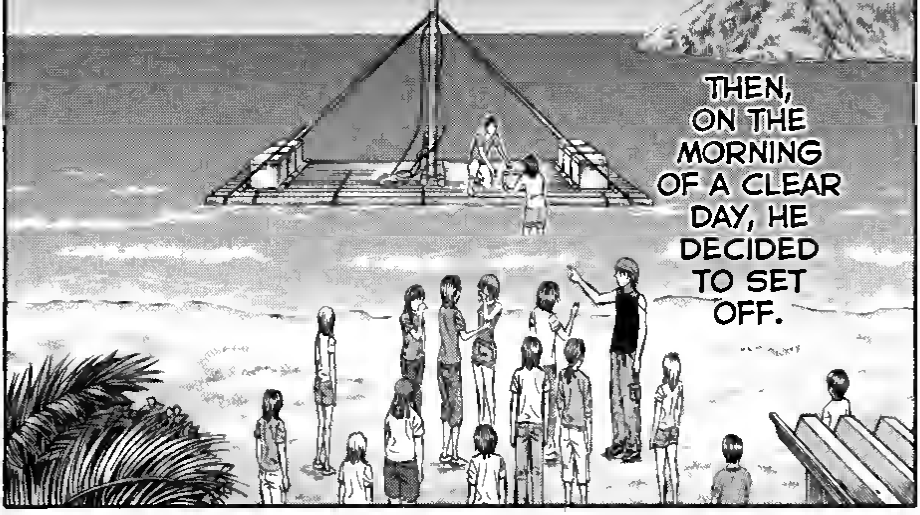

ARE YOU REALLY GOING?
MMM...
WH... WHY?
EHH!?
WITH THAT PERSON... RYOU?

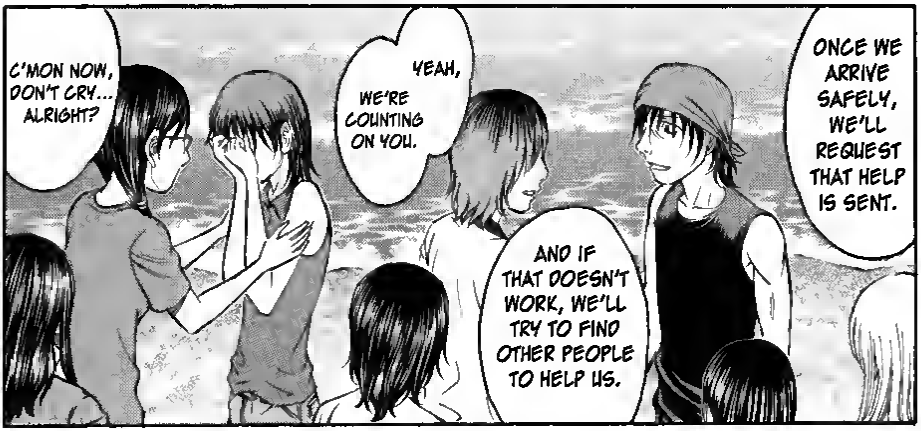
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TELL HIM.
AND—
DOES HE KNOW?
ABOUT YOUR... UH...
EVEN IF I STAYED HERE...
YEAH...
YEAH. EVEN IF WE STAYED HERE...




RYOU ATTEMPTED NUMEROUS DEPARTURE TESTS.
SOME DAYS LATER


THAT SEEMED LIKE IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE MAINLAND.
IT WAS A VERY PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION,
THE RAFT HAD A MAST AND EVEN BOXES TO STORE THINGS.


THEN, ON THE MORNING OF A CLEAR DAY, HE DECIDED TO SET OFF.

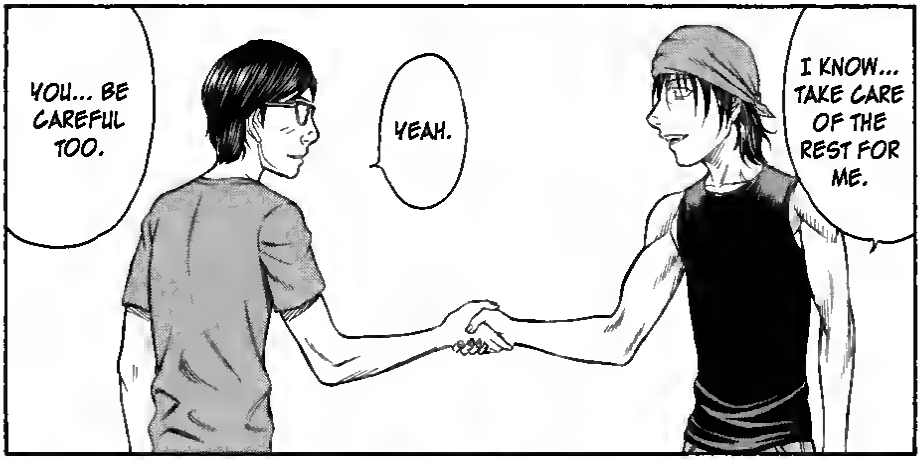

C'MON NOW, DON'T CRY... ALRIGHT?
YEAH, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, WE'LL TRY TO FIND OTHER PEOPLE TO HELP US.
ONCE WE ARRIVE SAFELY, WE'LL REQUEST THAT HELP IS SENT.

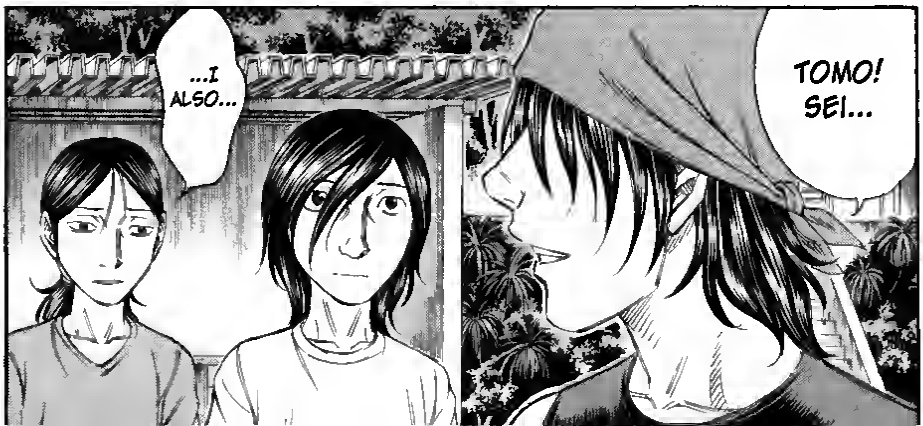
YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS WITH YOU.
WHAT IS THAT?

SUGI!
HEEEY.

オオオ…
REALLYYYY!!?
GEEZ... YOU'RE TRYING TO SET OFF WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHAT A COMPASS IS...?
I MAGNETIZED A NEEDLE AND THEN STUCK IT TO A PIECE OF STYROFOAM AND PUT IT IN WATER.
? WHAT?
IT'S A MAGNET! WHEN YOU PUT IT IN WATER IT POINTS NORTH.
IF THIS IS AN ISLAND AROUND OKINAWA OR THE IZU PENINSULA, AND YOU GO NORTH...
LISTEN CAREFULLY. YOU CAN'T GO EAST OR SOUTH... IF YOU GO INTO THE PACIFIC, NO ONE WILL SAVE YOU!
GO NORTH!!
? WHAT?
...SUGI.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU... TO BE HONEST, I'M AGAINST THIS WHOLE DEPARTURE...!
I-I HAVE NO CHOICE, THOUGH...
I'M GLAD I MET YOU...
YOU... ARE COLD, BUT YOU'RE REALLY A GOOD GUY.


YOU... BE CAREFUL TOO.
YEAH.
I KNOW... TAKE CARE OF THE REST FOR ME.


...I ALSO...
TOMO! SEI...

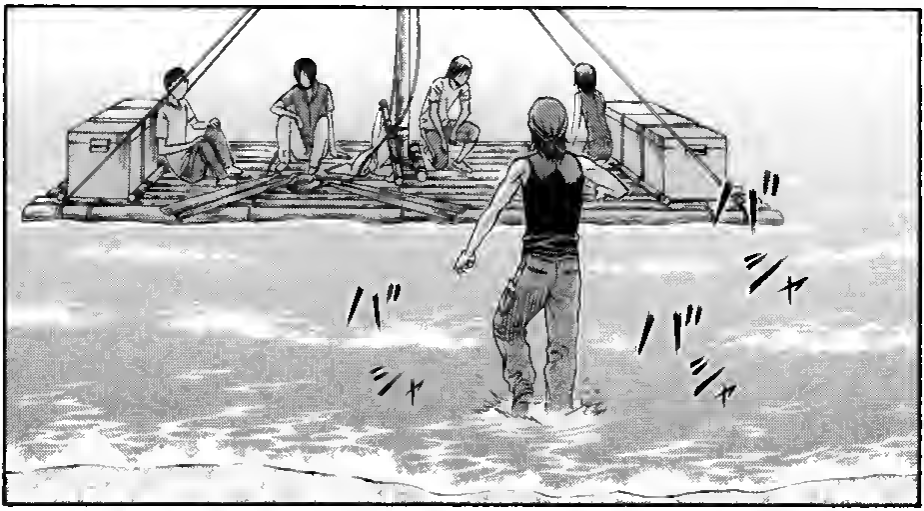
I THINK THAT IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE... WE...
WE WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED...! S...SO...
I'M AGAINST YOU LEAVING... RYOU.
B... BUT...
.....
THANKS ...
TOMO ...
EVERY-ONE...

I WASN'T GOING TO TALK ABOUT THIS... BUT JUST LET ME.
TO BE HONEST, I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF I MET YOU ALL SOONER... AND——

I'M GLAD I MET YOU... THAT'S HOW I FEEL.

BUT I'M GOING BACK...
TO MY PLACE.

RYOU.
RYOU...
SEE YA!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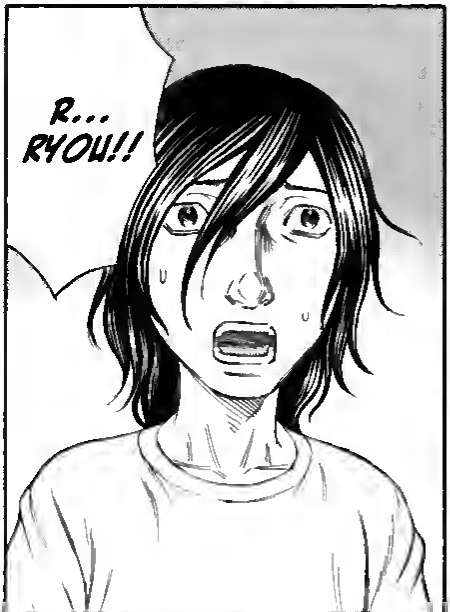
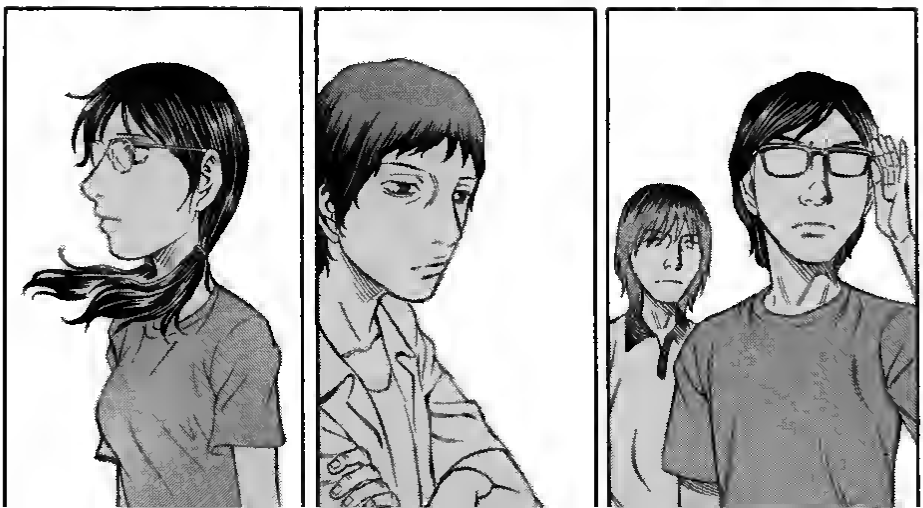

R...
RYOU!!

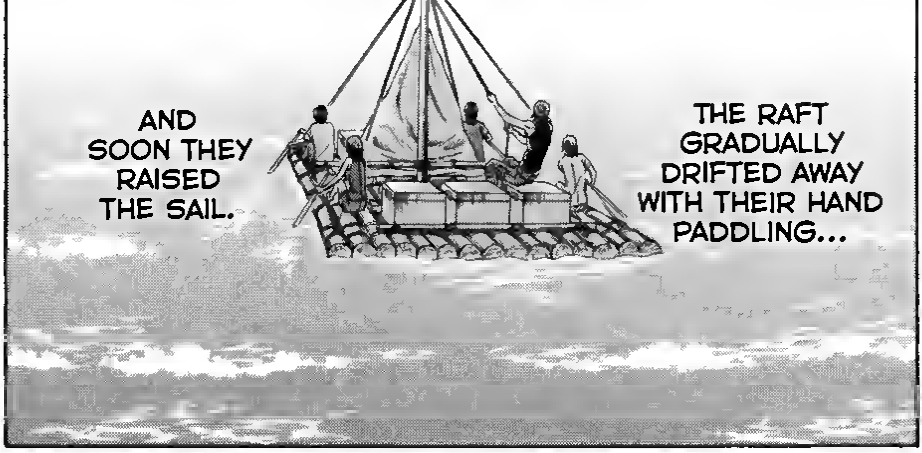
SEI...!!
...!

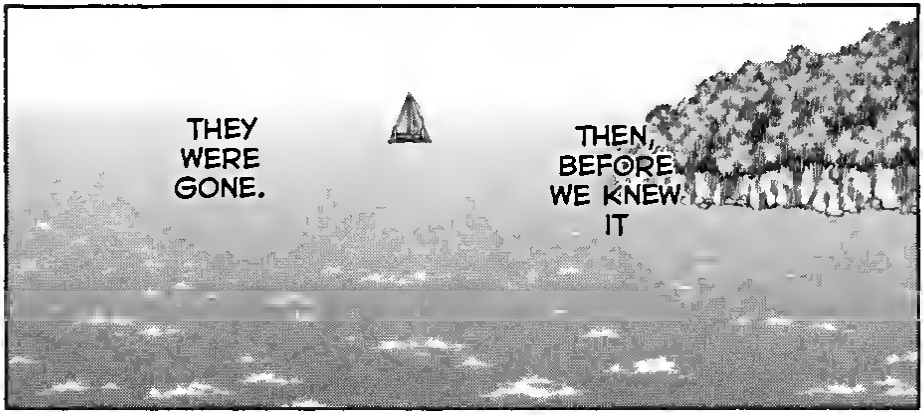
IF YOU FIND IT...!
IF YOU FIND AN ANSWER... TO WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO UNDERSTAND!!

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
THEN TELL EVERYONE ELSE ABOUT IT.

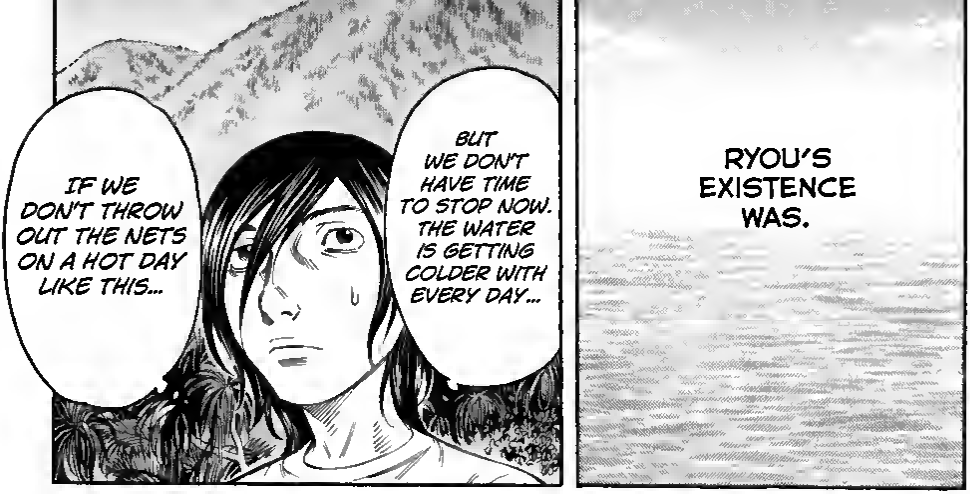
...RYOU...!



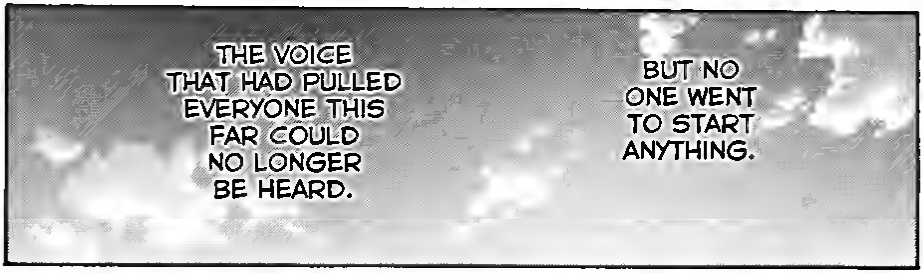

AND SOON THEY RAISED THE SAIL.
THE RAFT GRADUALLY DRIFTED AWAY WITH THEIR HAND PADDLING...


THEY WERE GONE.
THEN, BEFORE WE KNEW IT

THAT'S HOW LARGE—
WE ALL COULDN'T MOVE FOR A WHILE.
EVEN AFTER THE RAFT DISAPPEARED

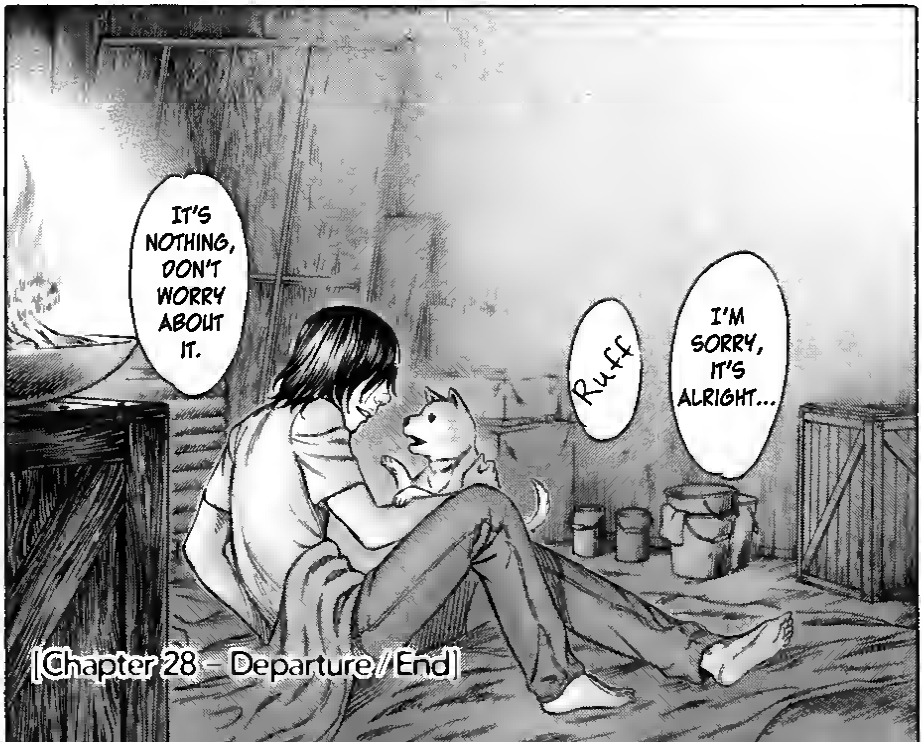

IF WE DON'T THROW OUT THE NETS ON A HOT DAY LIKE THIS...
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO STOP NOW. THE WATER IS GETTING COLDER WITH EVERY DAY...
RYOU'S EXISTENCE WAS.

We'll get a huge catch today!
Hurry, let's go!!


THE VOICE THAT HAD PULLED EVERYONE THIS FAR COULD NO LONGER BE HEARD.
BUT NO ONE WENT TO START ANYTHING.

I SAID STOP...!
Ruff!
Ruff!
STOP IT... IKIRU.

...IKIRU...
wh... whine...


IT'S NOTHING, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
Ruff
I'M SORRY, IT'S ALRIGHT...
[Chapter 28 – Departure / End]

Chapter 29 - Hunting Dog
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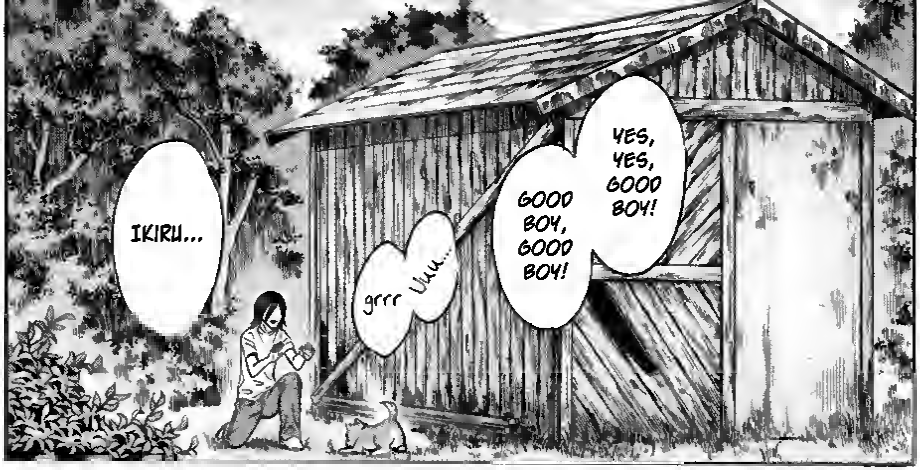
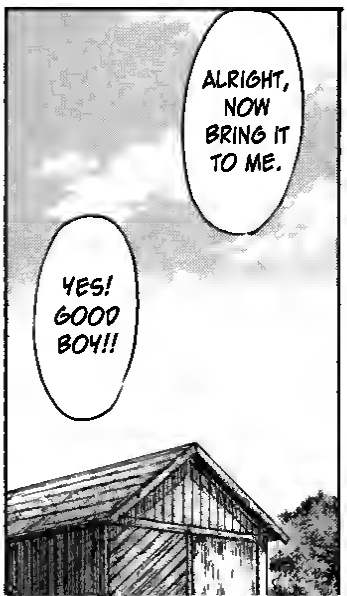

IKIRU...
grrr Uuu...
GOOD BOY, GOOD BOY!
YES, YES, GOOD BOY!

ピク"!

STOP!!


ALRIGHT, NOW BRING IT TO ME.
YES! GOOD BOY!!

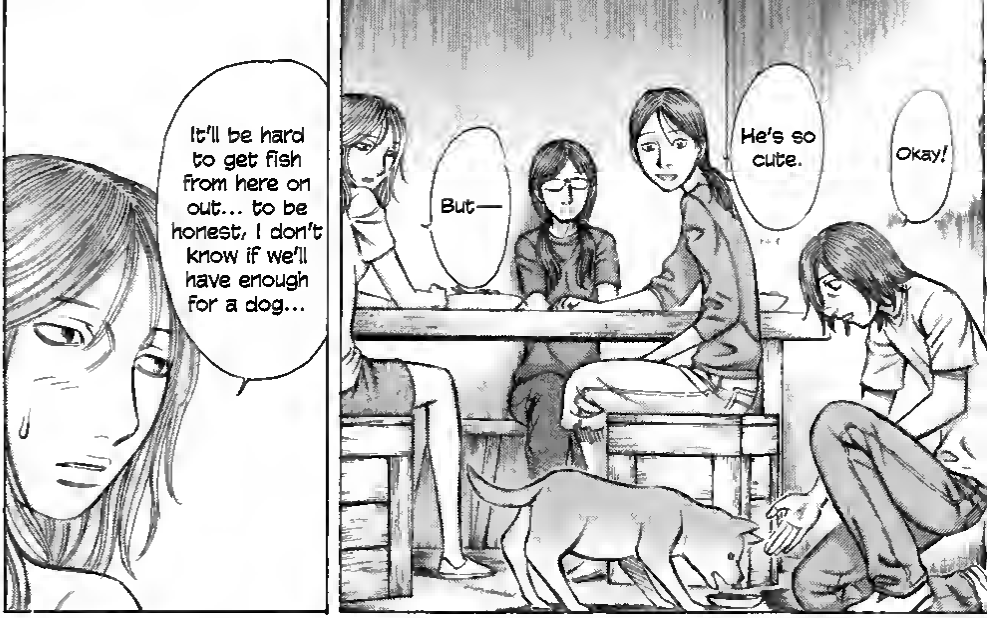
R... ruff!
THAT'S IT! GOOD BOY!

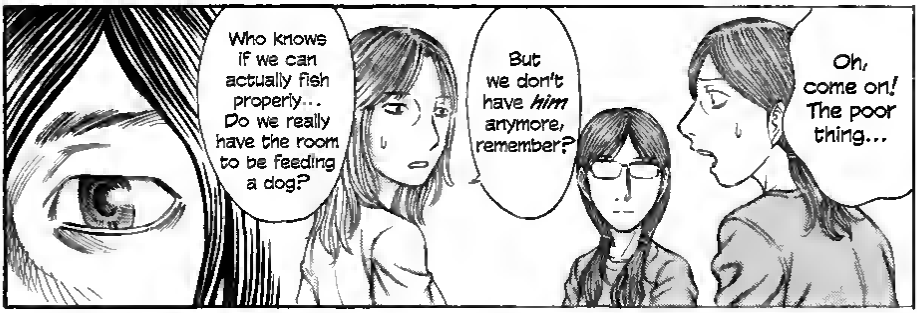
PUPPIES WANT TO PLAY EVERY DAY. AND WHEN THEY WANT TO PLAY, THEIR DESIRE TO TRAIN IS STRONG.
Ruff!
GOOD BOY, IKIRU, GOOD BOY! GOOD BOY!!

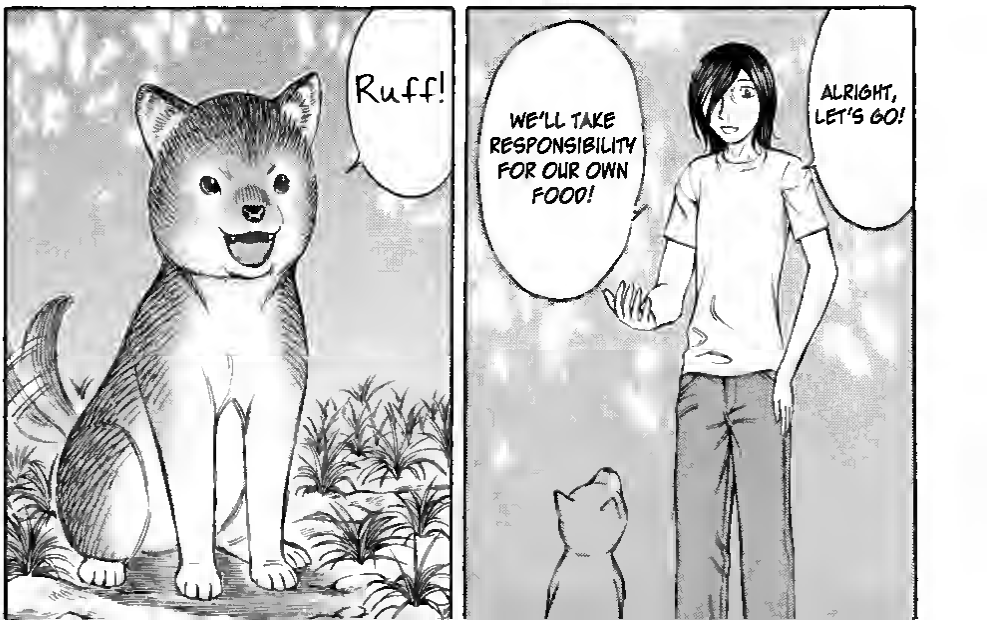
IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO TEACH HIM THE SCENT OF DEER AND TO INCREASE HIS ATTACHMENT TO THEM.
Uuuu
Ppp
Ppp
THAT'S RIGHT, PULL IT!
SEI CONTINUED IKIRU'S TRAINING BY USING A DOG TOY HE MADE OUT OF DEER FUR AND SKIN.

Wanna eat it together?
Yeah...
RATHER, MY HEART FELT CALM.

BUT MAYBE BECAUSE I HAD IKIRU WITH ME, I WASN'T LONELY.
AFTER RYOU LEFT, I ENTERED THE MOUNTAINS TO HUNT,

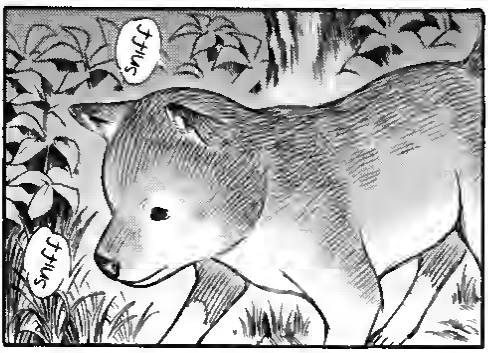

It'll be hard to get fish from here on out... to be honest, I don't know if we'll have enough for a dog...
But—
He's so cute.
Okay!


Who knows if we can actually fish properly... Do we really have the room to be feeding a dog?
But we don't have *him* anymore, remember?
Oh, come on! The poor thing...

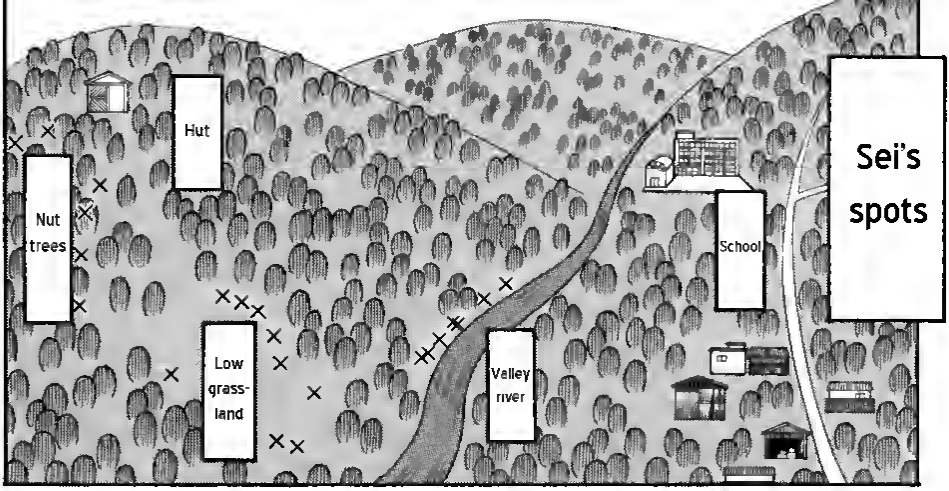

Ruff!
WE'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR OWN FOOD!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!

POSSIBLY DUE TO EFFECTS OF THE DEER SKIN, IKIRU CLUNG STRAIGHT TO THE SCENT OF THE DEER.
WE ENTERED THE MOUNTAINS AND NEARED OUR SPOT—

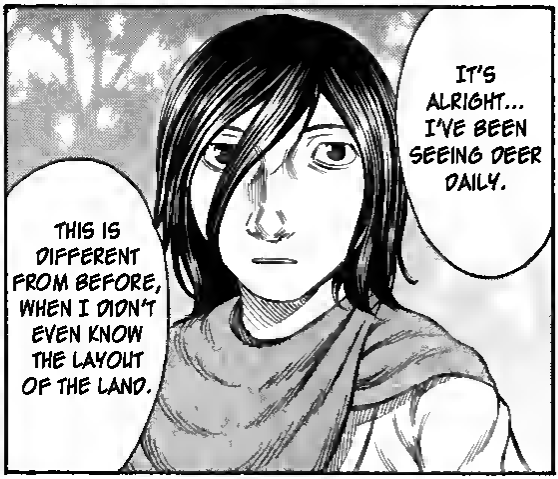
AT THIS SPOT, I WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY THE DEER DOWN TO THE VALLEY. I WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE TO SET UP CAMP.
I'D REALLY LIKE TO HUNT THEM HERE...


SNIFF
SNIFF

HE'S GETTING EXCITED.
I MAY BE ABLE TO TRUST IN HIM NOW... AND

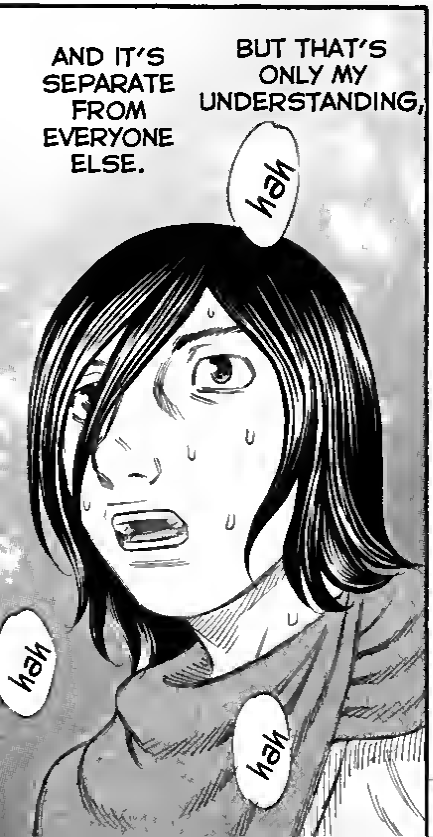


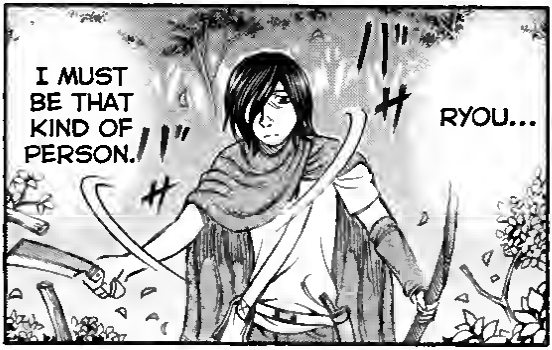
The x marks are the spots where Sei saw the deer.



WINTER COMING...
EVERYONE'S EYES ON IKIRU...
RYOU LEAVING...

AND THE COMPLETENESS OF CHASING MY PREY FILLED MY HEART.
THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES GREW FARTHER AWAY


AND IT'S SEPARATE FROM EVERYONE ELSE.
BUT THAT'S ONLY MY UNDERSTANDING,
hah
hah
hah

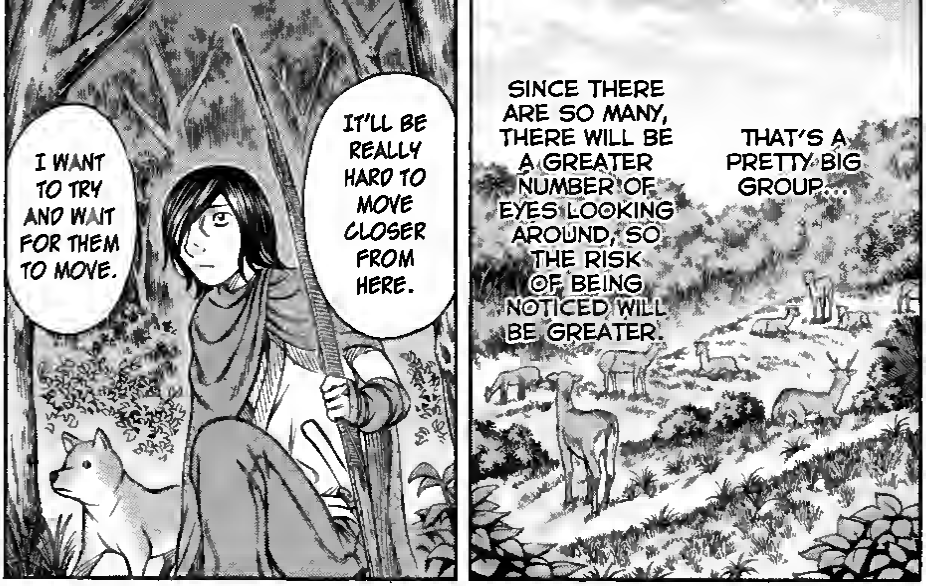

I MUST BE THAT KIND OF PERSON.
RYOU...

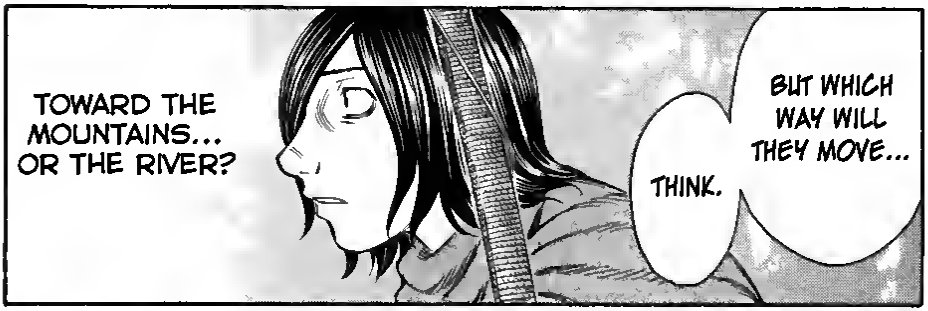
HE TOLD ME THAT HE WANTED ME TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT WHAT I COME TO UNDERSTAND,

BUT IT NEVER DID ANYTHING.
I'VE WATCHED TV AND READ BOOKS NUMEROUS TIMES BECAUSE PEOPLE TOLD ME TO.
THERE!

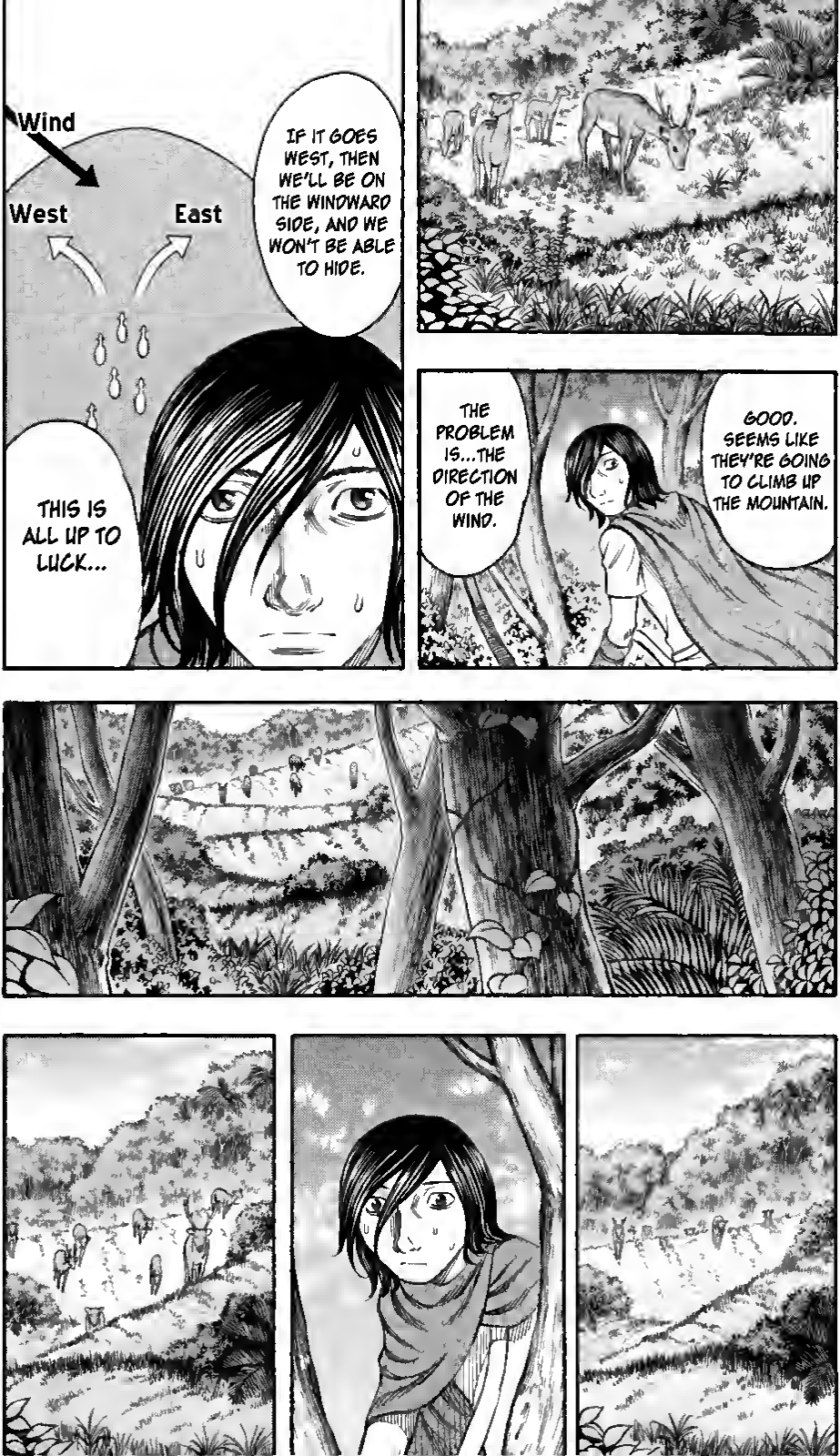
BY MYSELF.
THERE... THIS IS THE LEEWARD SIDE.
THE ANSWER HAS TO BE FOUND
THERE ARE A LOT OF BUSHES THAT CAN SERVE AS BLIND SPOTS.

LET'S GO.
I NEED TO FIND MY OWN ANSWER, FOR MYSELF.

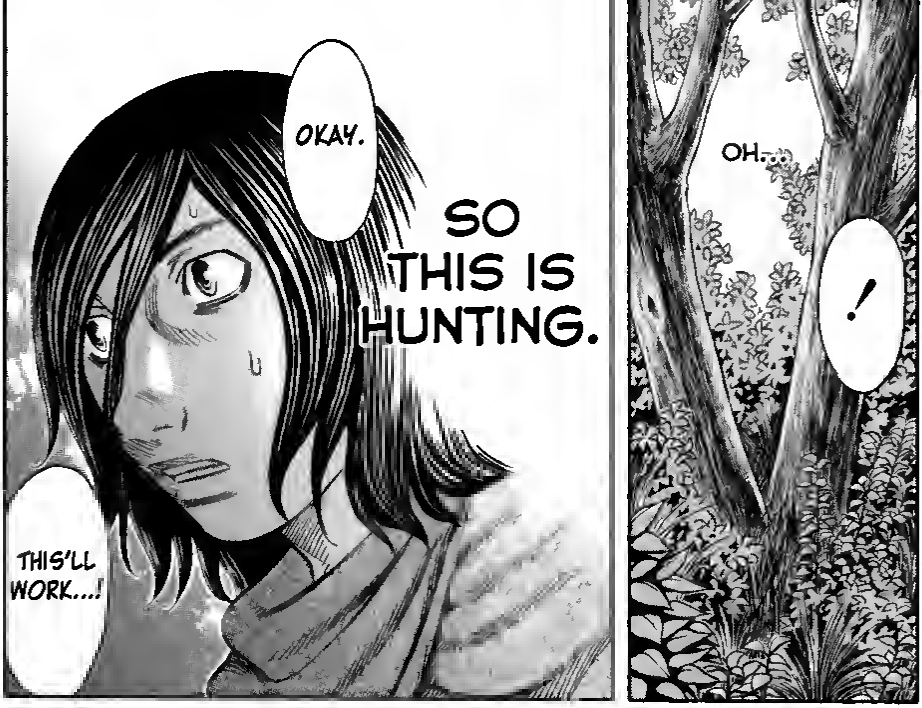

I WANT TO TRY AND WAIT FOR THEM TO MOVE.
IT'LL BE REALLY HARD TO MOVE CLOSER FROM HERE.
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG GROUP...
SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY, THERE WILL BE A GREATER NUMBER OF EYES LOOKING AROUND, SO THE RISK OF BEING NOTICED WILL BE GREATER.

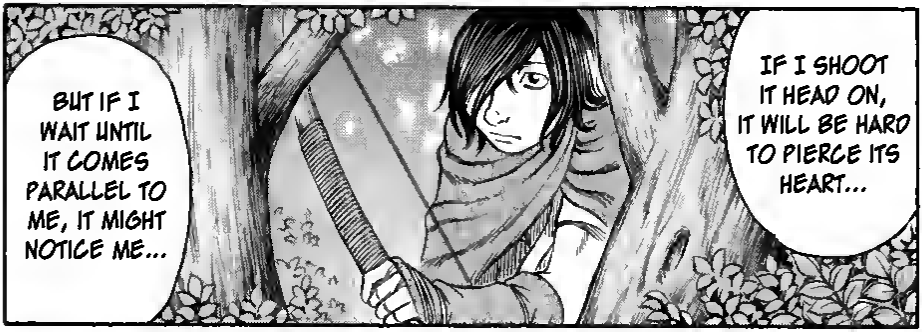

TOWARD THE MOUNTAINS... OR THE RIVER?
THINK.
BUT WHICH WAY WILL THEY MOVE...

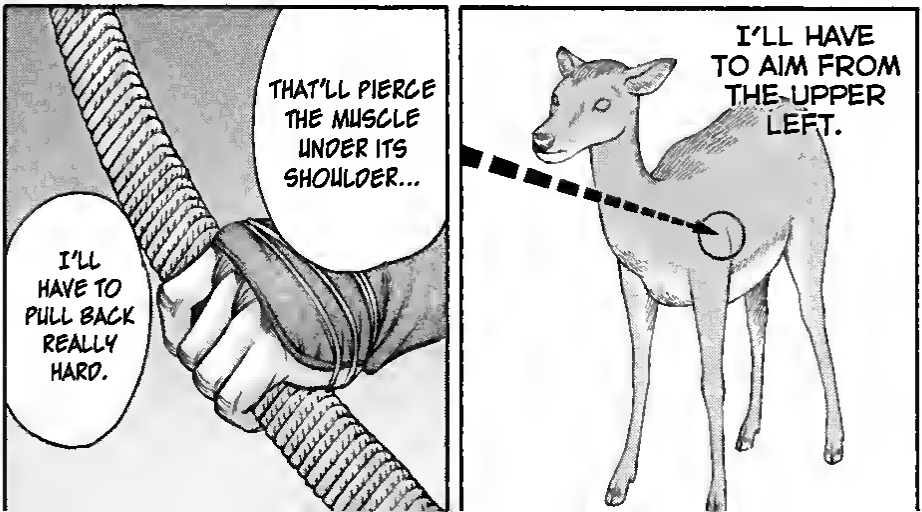
WE'RE GOING TO GET ABOVE THEM... QUIETLY!
THE MOUNTAINS.
IF THEY CAME UP FROM THE VALLEY, THEN...
I ALWAYS SEE THEM AT THE RIVER EARLY IN THE MORNING.


Wind
West
East
IF IT GOES WEST, THEN WE'LL BE ON THE WINDWARD SIDE, AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HIDE.
THIS IS ALL UP TO LUCK...
THE PROBLEM IS...THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND.
GOOD. SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO CLIMB UP THE MOUNTAIN.

I WAS EXCITED.
NOW TO FIND A PLACE TO AIM FROM...
THEY'RE COMING!
ALRIGHT.
"
GETTING A GRASP ON THEIR MOVEMENTS, READING AHEAD...
NOPE...
AFTER SEARCHING FOR THEM AND THEIR TRACKS DAILY,
THAT'S NO GOOD...
I WAS FINALLY CHASING MY PREY...
HURRY...
IT'LL BE HARD TO SEE FROM THERE, AND THE PATH OF MY ARROW WON'T BE OBSTRUCTED...

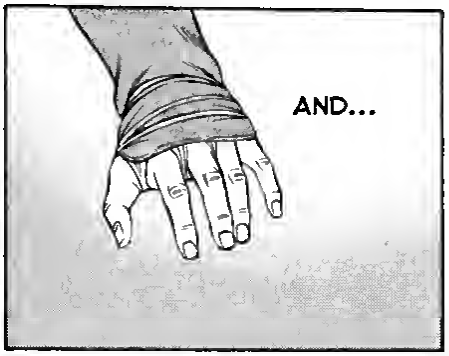

OKAY.
SO THIS IS HUNTING.
THIS'LL WORK...!
OH...
!

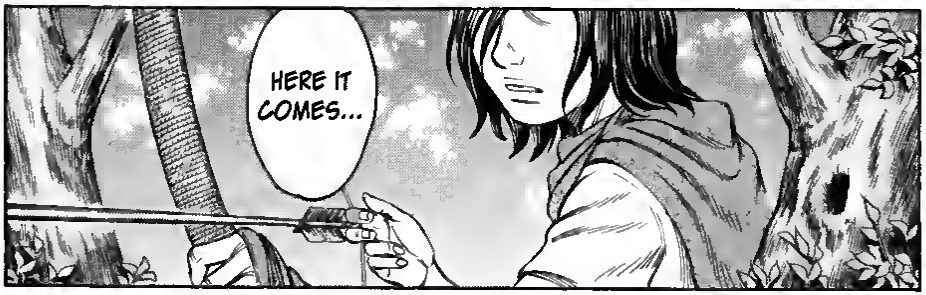

BUT IF I WAIT UNTIL IT COMES PARALLEL TO ME, IT MIGHT NOTICE ME...
IF I SHOOT IT HEAD ON, IT WILL BE HARD TO PIERCE ITS HEART...

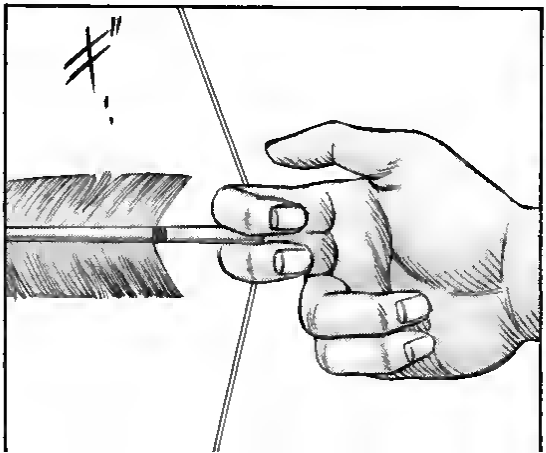

I'LL HAVE TO PULL BACK REALLY HARD.
THAT'LL PIERCE THE MUSCLE UNDER ITS SHOULDER...
I'LL HAVE TO AIM FROM THE UPPER LEFT.

COUNT ON IKIRU ONCE MORE.
STAY DOWN... GOT IT!?

I'LL USE THE NEW BIG ARROW I MADE RECENTLY.


AND...

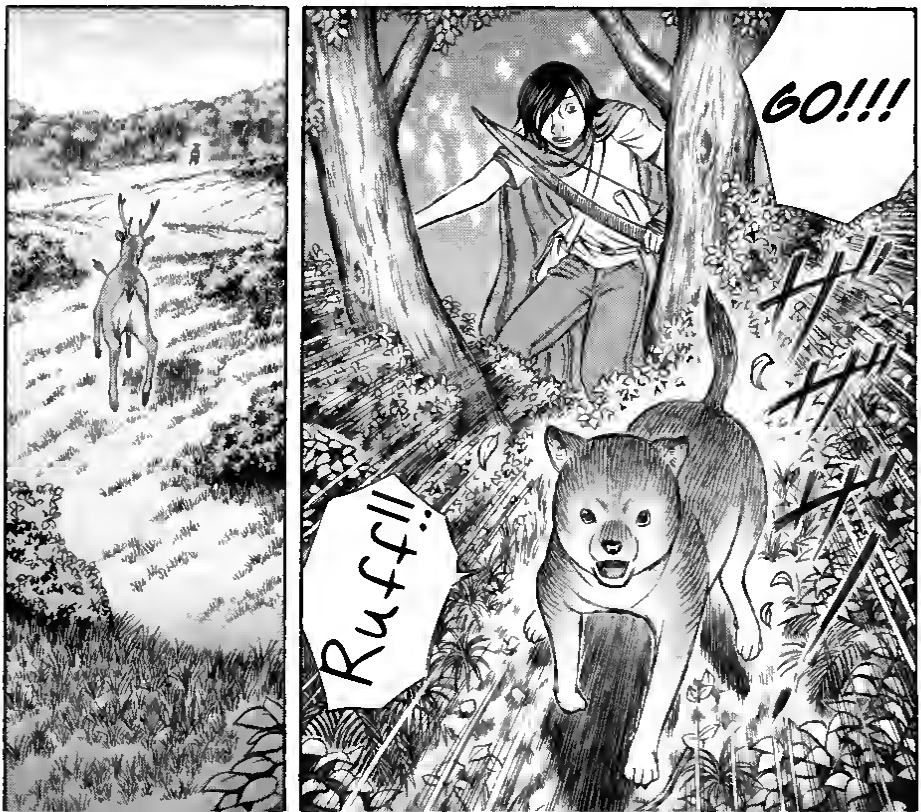

HERE IT COMES...



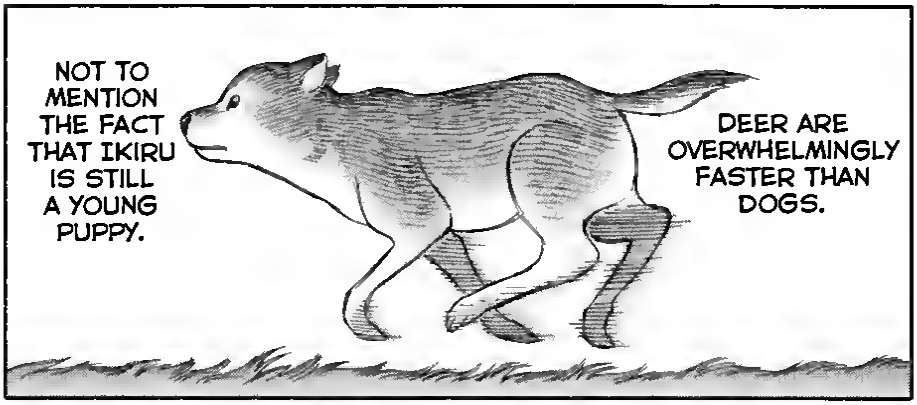
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOOT IF THEY GO RIGHT...
GO LEFT.
LEFT...
YES.
A MALE... IT'S BIG.
STILL NOT YET... MORE.
COME IN MORE... MORE...
MORE...

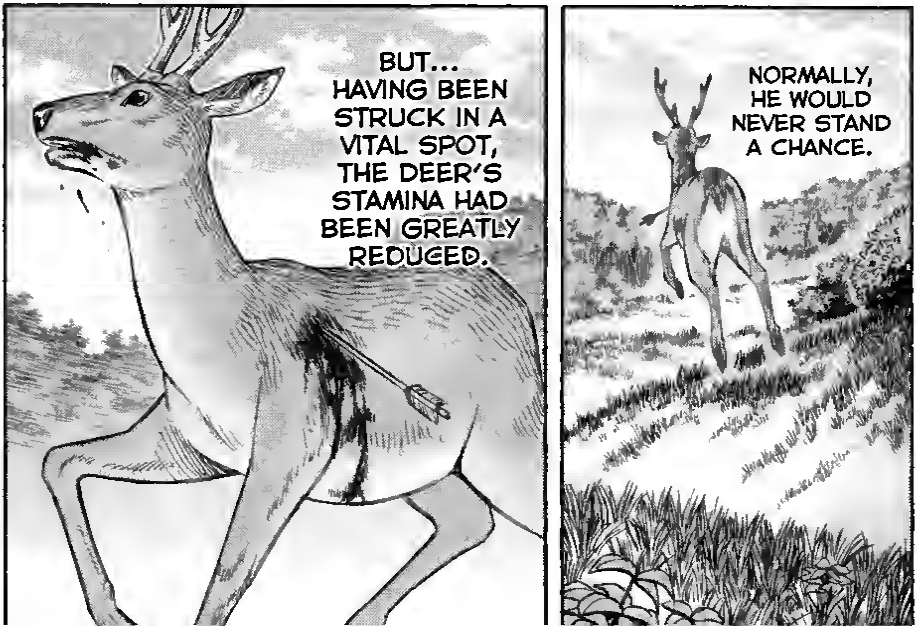
ピク
HAVE PATIENCE! ...IKIRU...!!
...U...

IT HIT!
IT'S GONNA RUN...
Piiii!!

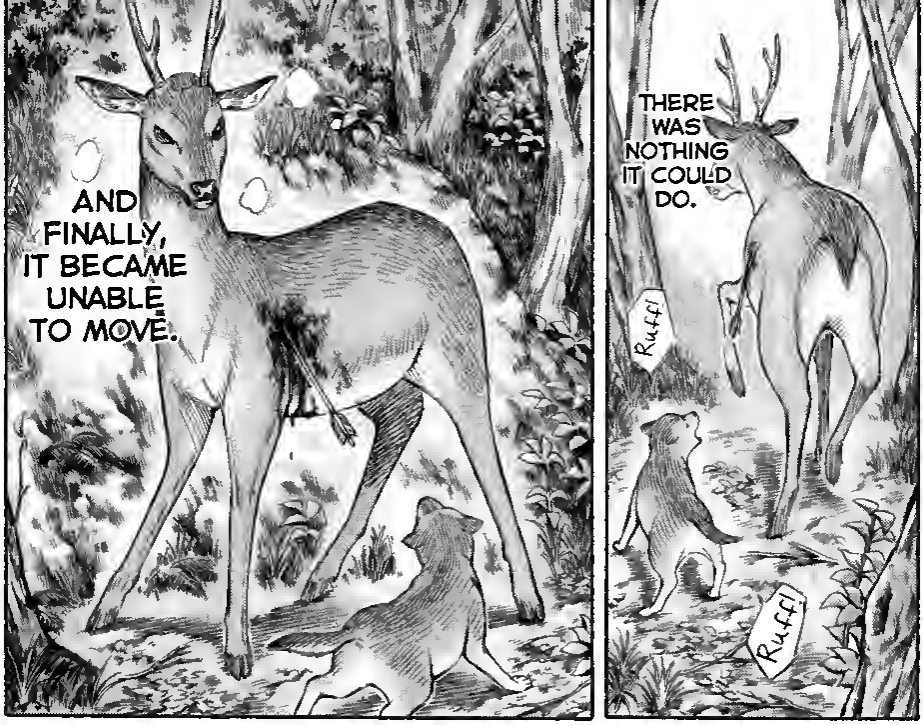

GO!!!
Ruff!!

I THOUGHT IT HIT PRETTY DEEPLY...
IT'S FAST...
CAN HE MAKE IT!?


NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT IKIRU IS STILL A YOUNG PUPPY.
DEER ARE OVERWHELMINGLY FASTER THAN DOGS.

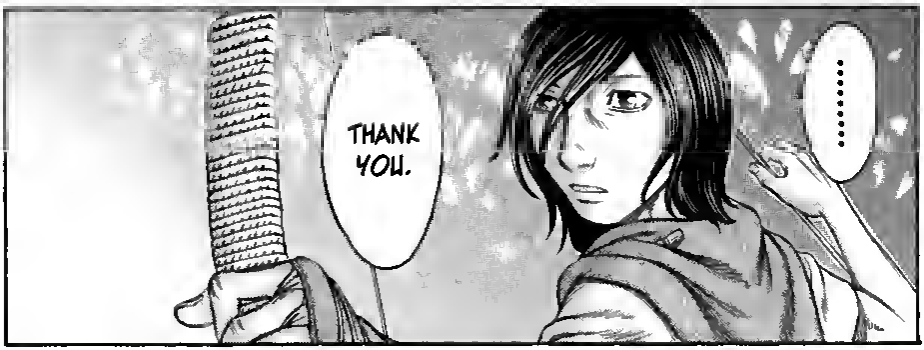

BUT... HAVING BEEN STRUCK IN A VITAL SPOT, THE DEER'S STAMINA HAD BEEN GREATLY REDUCED.
NORMALLY, HE WOULD NEVER STAND A CHANCE.

ワン
ワン
AL-RIGHT.
HE'S STILL CHASING IT.
HAH
HAH
HAH
IKIRU
CONTINUED TO CHASE.
THE MALE DEER BECAME EVEN MORE WITHERED.
AS ITS SMALL PURSUER CAUGHT UP TO IT,
CONTINUING TO HOWL,
IKIRU KEPT HIS DISTANCE,
THREATING ITS ENEMY,
EVEN THOUGH IT BRANDISHED ITS HORNS,


AND FINALLY, IT BECAME UNABLE TO MOVE.
THERE WAS NOTHING IT COULD DO.
Ruff!
Ruff!

!
IKIRU! ...

PERFECT....!
.....
GOOD DOG...!



IKIRU WAS GROWING AS A HUNTING DOG.

FOR HOWLING, THEY CONTINUALLY HOWL AND CORNER THEIR PREY, STOPPING IT AT THAT SPOT AND WAITING FOR THE MASTER TO FINISH IT OFF.

FOR BITING, THEY ACTUALLY ATTACK THEIR PREY BY BITING, SOMETIMES COMPLETELY FINISHING IT OFF.

HUNTING DOGS CAN FINISH THEIR PREY OFF BY BOTH BITING AND HOWLING.

ズッ

[Chapter 29 – Hunting Dog / End]

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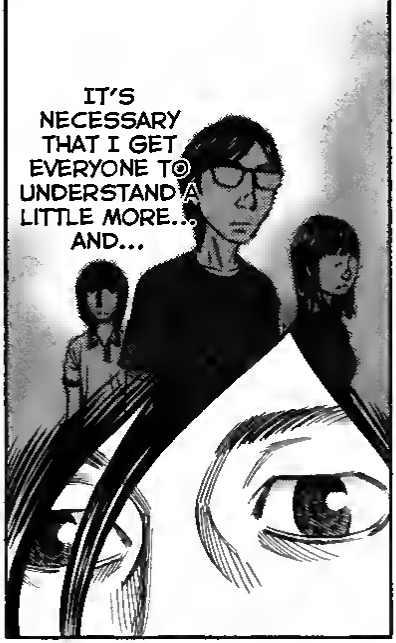
Chapter 30 – Washed Ashore

I COULD HAVE DONE MORE IF IKIRU HADN'T GOT IN THE WAY OF MY WORK, BUT THINKING OF WHAT HE HAD DONE FOR ME, I COULDN'T BE ANGRY.
Ruff
NO, NOT HERE!
CARRYING THE DEER DOWN TO THE RIVER AND DISASSEMBLING IT WENT EASIER THAN I IMAGINED.

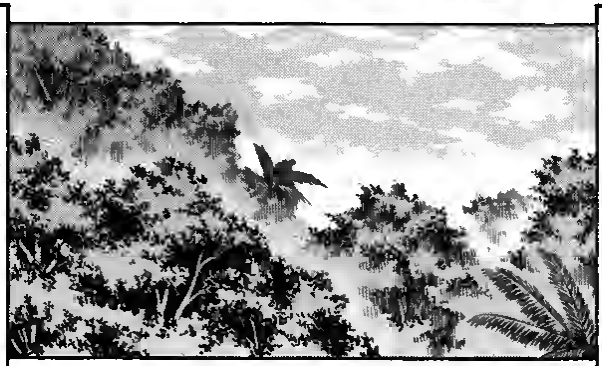
THE CONTENTS HAD A STRONG STENCH, SO I GAVE UP ON USING HALF OF ITS INSIDES. I'LL NEED TO TAKE MORE CARE FROM HERE ON OUT.
I WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS, TOO...
I MESSED UP...
WHEN I SHOT IT, HOWEVER, I THINK I PIERCED ITS STOMACH, SO THE CONTENTS SPILLED OUT ALL OVER ITS GUTS AND MEAT.

CHOPPED LIVER... AND I'VE HEARD THAT DEER MEAT CAN BE EATEN RAW.
LET'S TRY TO EAT AS MUCH OF IT RAW AS WE CAN!
I MESSED UP...

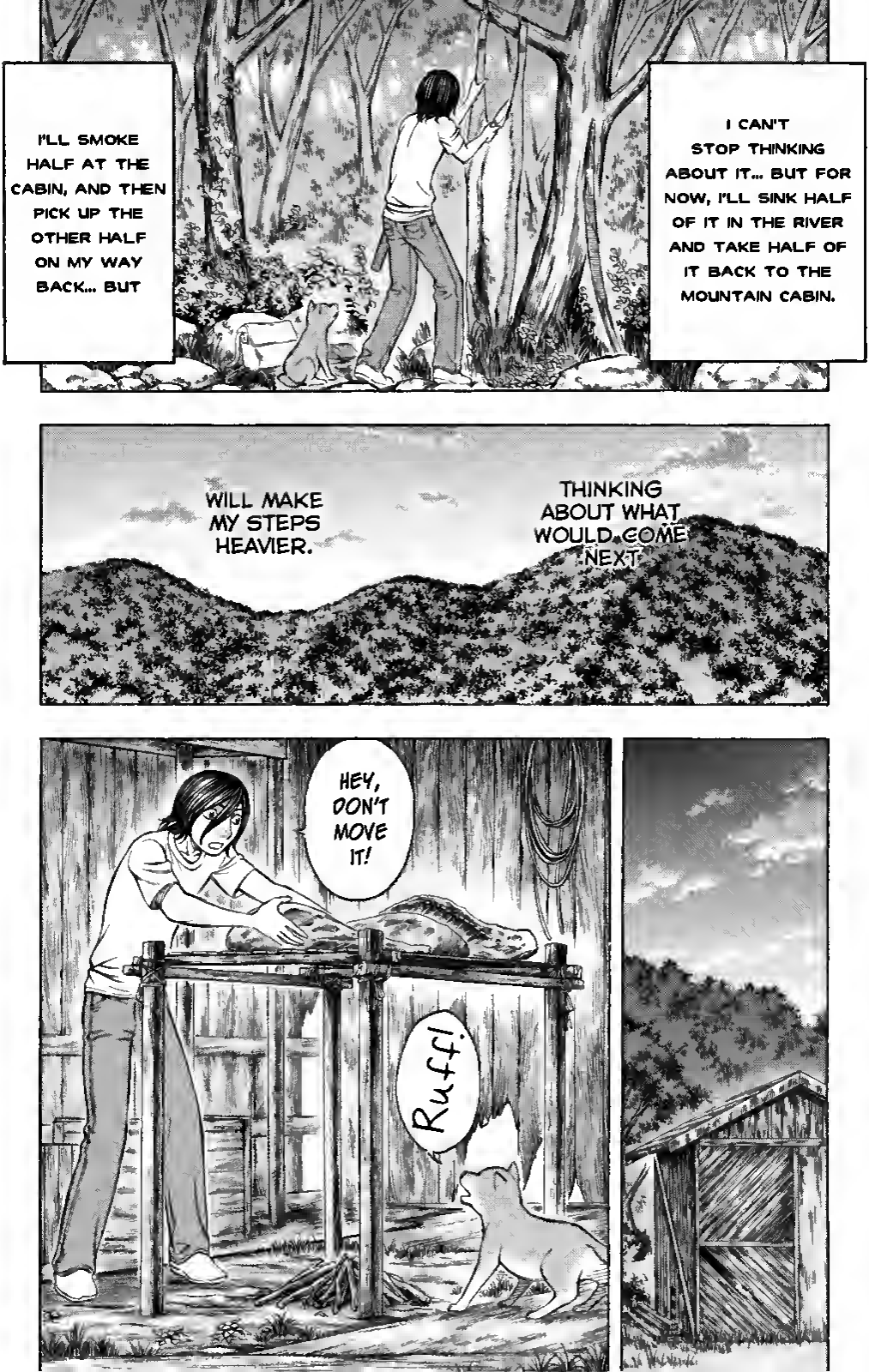
OKAY.
Ruff!
IKIRU.
WAIT!
I CAN'T TAKE IT BACK RAW TO THE SCHOOL AT THIS TEMPERATURE... I GUESS THAT'S THE GOOD PART ABOUT BEING A HUNTER!
IT'S REALLY GOOD.
MMM... IT'S NOT JUST EDIBLE...
Ruff!
RIGHT, IKIRU!?



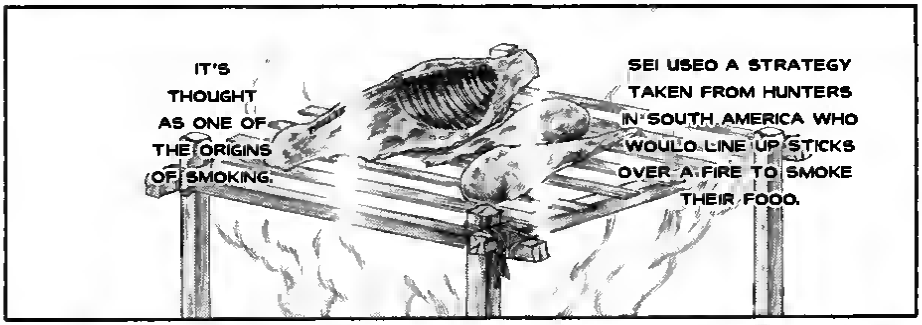
WHILE TRACKING FOR HIS PREY, SEI CANNOT GATHER MOUNTAIN PLANTS OR FISH, AND VITAMINS CANNOT BE RECEIVED FROM RAW FISH OR PLANTS.

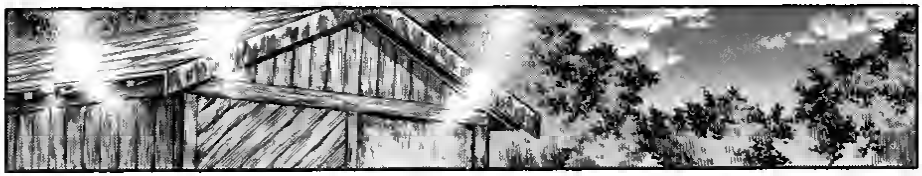


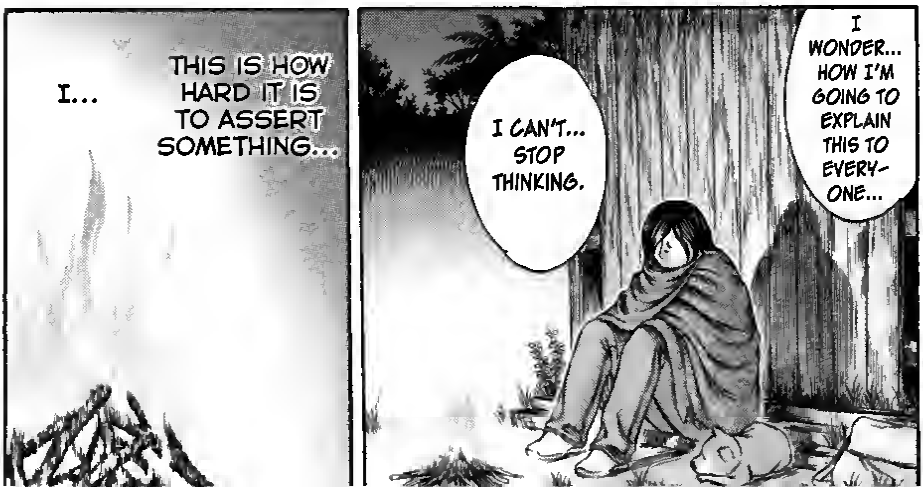
THE REASON HE WAS SO CONCERNED ABOUT VITAMINS WAS BECAUSE HE HADN'T BEEN EATING VEGETABLES LATELY.

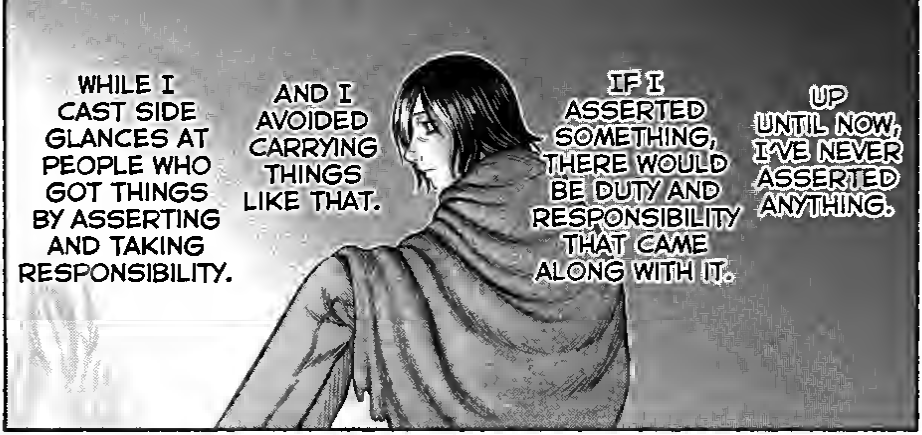

I'LL SMOKE HALF AT THE CABIN, AND THEN PICK UP THE OTHER HALF ON MY WAY BACK... BUT
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT... BUT FOR NOW, I'LL SINK HALF OF IT IN THE RIVER AND TAKE HALF OF IT BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN CABIN.
WILL MAKE MY STEPS HEAVIER.
THINKING ABOUT WHAT WOULD COME NEXT.
HEY, DON'T MOVE IT!
Ruff!

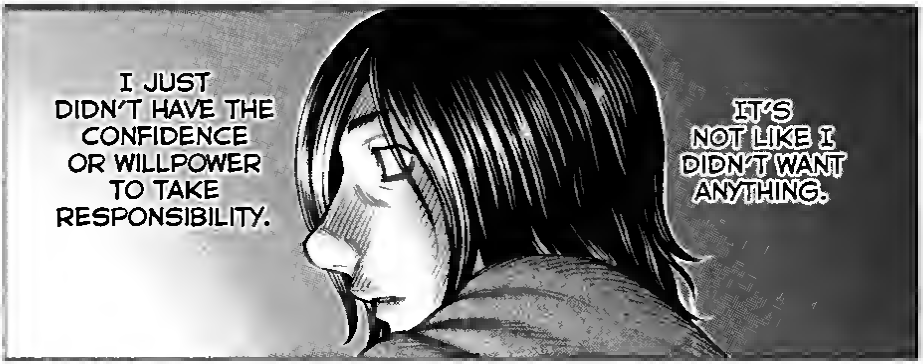
THE INSIDE'S GONNA GET FILLED WITH SMOKE, SO WE CAN'T GO IN! ALRIGHT?
Ruff!
I HOPE THIS WILL DO IT... I DON'T THINK THE TABLE WILL BURN...
ALL I NEED TO DO IS SMOKE THIS, SO IT SHOULD HOLD UP!

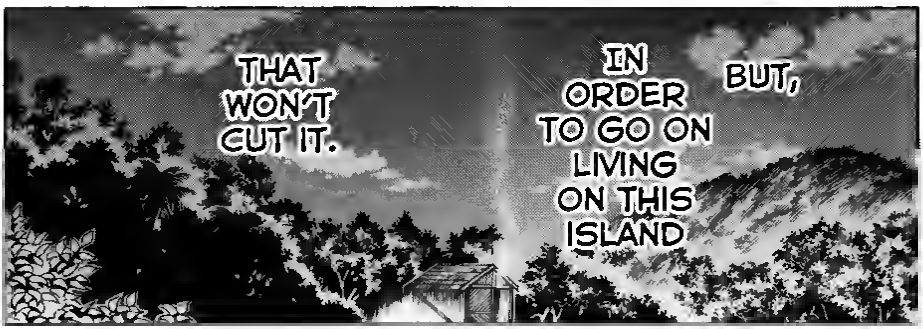

IT'S THOUGHT AS ONE OF THE ORIGINS OF SMOKING.
SEI USED A STRATEGY TAKEN FROM HUNTERS IN SOUTH AMERICA WHO WOULD LINE UP STICKS OVER A FIRE TO SMOKE THEIR FOOD.

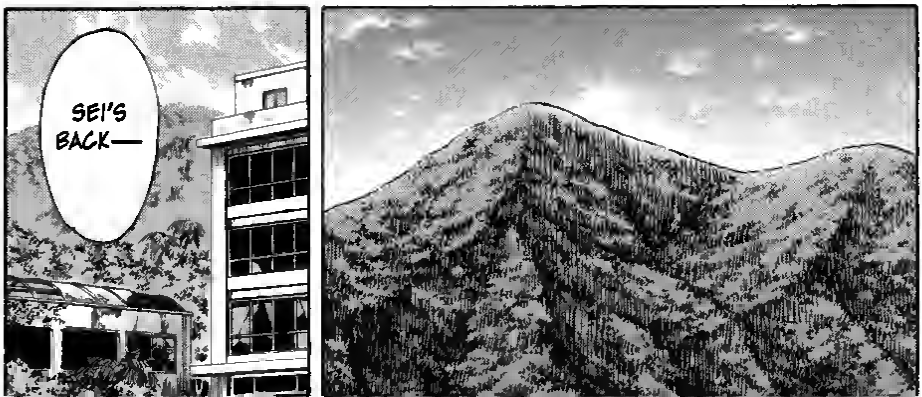



I...
THIS IS HOW HARD IT IS TO ASSERT SOMETHING...
I CAN'T... STOP THINKING.
I WONDER... HOW I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS TO EVERY-ONE...


WHILE I CAST SIDE GLANCES AT PEOPLE WHO GOT THINGS BY ASSERTING AND TAKING RESPONSIBILITY.
AND I AVOIDED CARRYING THINGS LIKE THAT.
IF I ASSERTED SOMETHING, THERE WOULD BE DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY THAT CAME ALONG WITH IT.
UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE NEVER ASSERTED ANYTHING.


I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OR WILLPOWER TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
IT'S NOT LIKE I DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING.


THAT WON'T CUT IT.
BUT, IN ORDER TO GO ON LIVING ON THIS ISLAND


SEI'S BACK—

SEI!
TOMO!

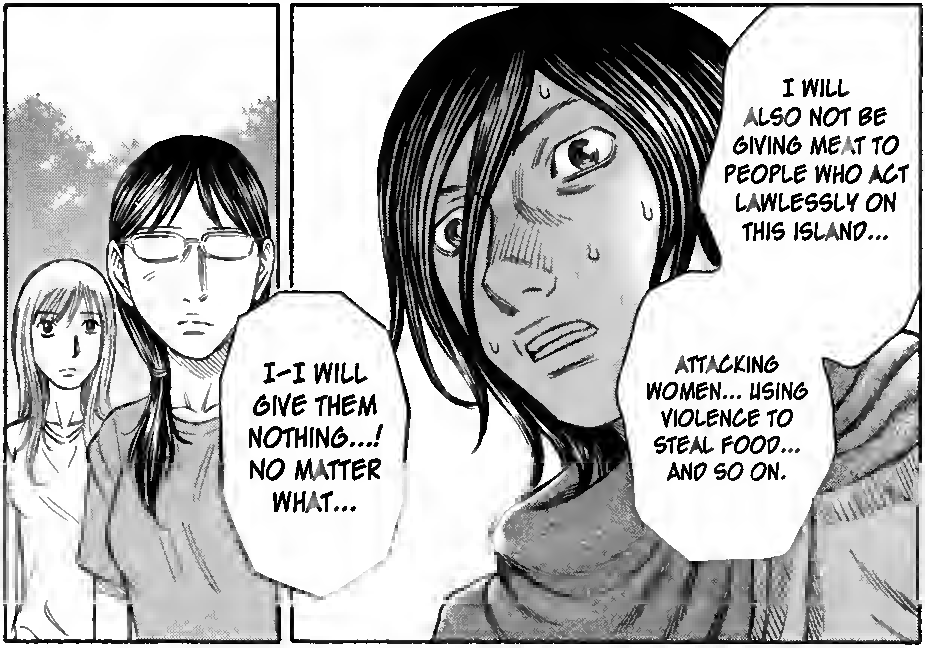
OHHH, MEEAAAT!
YOU WERE QUICK THIS TIME.
YEAH.
LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO HUNT AT A CLOSE SPOT.
BUT ISN'T THIS ONLY HALF?

IT WAS TOO HEAVY TO CARRY IT ALL AT ONCE... I'M SMOKING HALF IN THE MOUNTAINS.
WAHH... HOW EXCITING!
LET'S BEGIN, THEN!
W...
WAIT A MINUTE!

IN ORDER TO GET THIS MEAT... IT TAKES ME AN ENTIRE DAY... AND SOMETIMES MANY DAYS OF CHASING DEERS THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS.
DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME, I HAVE HARDLY ANYTHING TO EAT... AND I CAN'T FISH OR GATHER VEGETABLES WHILE I HUNT... SO,
TH... THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO...!
I WANT OTHER KINDS OF FOOD.
IN... RETURN FOR GIVING YOU THIS MEAT,
WAIT... WAIT!
Whine...
I'M NOT SAYING I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING, BUT...
H... HEY, WAIT, DO YOU MEAN... SETTING UP AN EXCHANGE?

THE MEAT... ONLY YOU CAN GO GET MEAT, SEI!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA GIVE IT TO US!?
ARE YOU TRYING TO MONOPOLIZE IT!?
HEY! DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT...
THEN HOW SHOULD I SAY IT!? HE WON'T GIVE US THE MEAT...
.....
WE HAVE TO SEPARATE IT EQUALLY!
EQUALLY...? THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO EAT WHILE I'M IN THE MOUNTAINS...?
YOU ALL WANT TO EAT SOMETHING DURING THAT TIME, RIGHT?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS EXCHANGE I'VE PROPOSED...
THEN THIS—
WILL BE THE LAST MEAT I BRING.

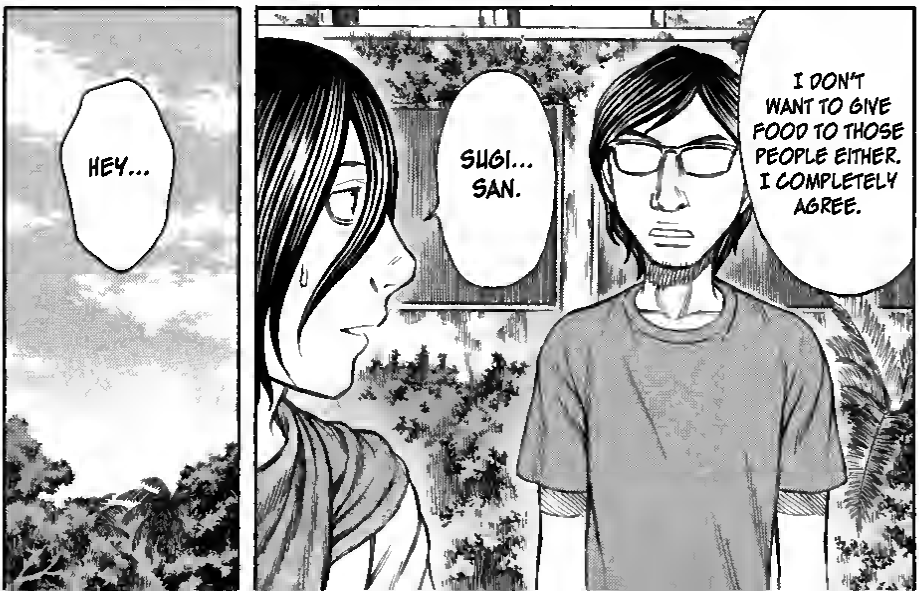
HEY!
AND ONE MORE THING.
SE... SEI...?


I WILL ALSO NOT BE GIVING MEAT TO PEOPLE WHO ACT LAWLESSLY ON THIS ISLAND...
ATTACKING WOMEN... USING VIOLENCE TO STEAL FOOD... AND SO ON.
I-I WILL GIVE THEM NOTHING...! NO MATTER WHAT...

I AGREE. I AGREE COM-PLETELY.
!
.....
WHO THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE...?

LATELY, PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN PROACTIVE IN WORKING AND THOSE WHO HAVEN'T HAVE BEEN RECEIVING EQUAL TREATMENT.
THE SECURITY AROUND HERE HAS ALSO GONE DOWN...

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T FISH YET EAT FISH.
PEOPLE WHO DON'T GO INTO THE MOUNTAINS YET RECEIVE PLANTS.
PEOPLE WHO CANNOT SUPPRESS THEIR DESIRES.


I DON'T WANT TO GIVE FOOD TO THOSE PEOPLE EITHER. I COMPLETELY AGREE.
SUGI... SAN.
HEY...

IS IT ALRIGHT TO TALK LIKE THAT...?
IF YOU WON'T GIVE ME ANY... THEN
I'M NOT GOING TO REVERSE MYSELF ANY LONGER...! I DIDN'T REALLY CARE MUCH FOR THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WHO'S THE ONE... WHO SAID THAT SECURITY AND EQUALITY DOESN'T MATTER HERE?
THAT THIS IS A NO MAN'S ISLAND!!!
NOW GIVE ME SOME... NO,
I'M TAKING SOME...
I-I WILL NOT ALLOW LAWLESS-NESS...

I...
I WAS NAIVE.... I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS...
WAI... WAIT A MINUTE...!
EVERY-ONE..

MOVE IT...!
SHUT UP!!
CALM DOWN...! ALRIGHT?
THIS IS AN ANTAGONISM I BROUGHT ALONG...

!
HEEEY!
NO... WHAT AM I THINKING ABOUT! I'M UP AGAINST PEOPLE HERE?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

H...
H...EY,
EVERY-
ONE...
W...
WE HAVE
TROUBLE!
AT...
THE
BEACH!
THE
RAFT...!!
!!!
RYOU-KUN'S
GROUP!!

RYOU...?
RYOU...

IT CAN'T BE...!!

RYOUUU!!
RYOU... COME ON!
...H... HANG IN THERE...

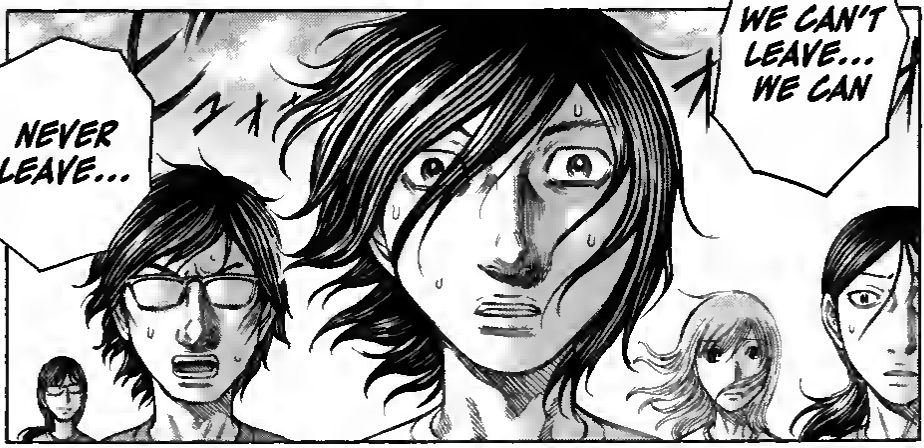
RYOU!!
WH-WHAT HAPPEN-ED!?
RYOU ...
UUU...
IS HE ALRIGHT!?

IT... IT... DIDN'T WORK... D...
DAMMIT...!!

WHAT HAPPEN-ED...!?
WHAT?
RYOU...

TH...
THEY...
!
RYOU... PUT ME ON THE BROKEN RAFT... AND WE CAME BACK HERE...
BUT I DON'T KNOW... WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERYONE ELSE.
THEY FIRED AT US!! F-FIRED!! W-WE...C-C... COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...
THEY...HIT US!! WITH A BOAT! HIT OUR RAFT... TH...THEY...
D... DAMMIT... I...I...
H... HEY!
GAHAH.
HEY!
FIRED!!? THAT CAN'T BE...

A-ARE YOU OKAY...?
HEY?
.....
THEN WHAT HAPPENED!? HEY! HANG IN THERE!
HEY!!
!?
H... HE'S DEAD...
I KNEW IT... I KNEW IT!! IT WAS WRITTEN ON THAT SIGN.
KUH... THE NATION... THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING US BACK...
RYOU...



[Chapter 30 – Washed Ashore / End]

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NATURAL 9

デザイン

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